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A-League Round 12 Friday 27th Dec - Sunday 29th Dec 2013



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Italian Giants Juventus coming to Sydney

One of the world's greatest football clubs, the Italian Serie A giants Juventus, will play a one-off match in Sydney next year, NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell announced last Friday.

Mr O'Farrell said securing Juventus for the Australian-exclusive match against the FOXTEL A-League All Stars was another major coup for the NSW major events calendar.

"Juventus is one of the world's most famous football clubs and a visit by the 'Old Lady' to Sydney has been long hoped for by Australian fans," Mr O'Farrell said.

"I am delighted the NSW Government, through its tourism and major events agency Destination NSW, in partnership with Football Federation Australia, has been able to secure Juventus for Sydney.

"Following the huge success of the sold out All Stars match against Manchester United earlier this year we have worked hard with the FFA to secure Italy's most-popular club for Sydney.

"The reigning Serie A champions will play a hotly-anticipated match against the A-League All Stars team at ANZ Stadium on Sunday 10 August, 2014.

"This is an historic visit by Juventus to Sydney and I encourage sports fans from across Australia to come and enjoy the best of world football in Sydney, Australia's premier sports and major events city."

Juventus has a world-wide fan base of 250 million, including 1.4 million Juventus faithful in Australia and is the former club of current Hyundai A-League superstar, Alessandro Del Piero.

The club is the most successful Italian football club in history, having won 54 official titles on the national and international stage, more than any other Italian club. The club also boasts a record 29 league titles, nine Italian cups, a record



The Match
All Stars Vs Juventus
ANZ Stadium, Sydney
Sunday 10 August 2014

five national super cups, and eleven titles in confederation and inter-confederation competitions.

The A-League All Stars will once again represent the best of the A-League, with players and coaching staff selected by football fans.

Minister for Tourism and Major Events George Souris said the latest major event coup would be a significant boost for the NSW economy.

"Juventus will experience the same welcome that football fans offered Manchester United during their visit in July this year, which saw a sold out crowd of more than 83,000 descend on ANZ Stadium.

"By hosting this remarkable team, Sydney and NSW will once again be showcased to a worldwide audience. It again confirms our position as Australia's home of major events – the NSW Government has secured 184 events over the past two and a half years, boosting the State's economy by about \$1.2 billion."

Minister for Sport and Recreation, Gabrielle Upton, said: "NSW plays host to some of the most exciting sporting fixtures and they don't get any bigger than a match featuring Juventus. This game will not only be thrilling to watch but is important in positioning Sydney as the home of football in Australia and home of the A-League All Stars."

Juventus FC President, Andrea Agnelli, said they would bring a full strength squad to Sydney in 2014. "Juventus has a responsibility to its millions of fans to present our heritage and our qualities in the best way possible," Mr Agnelli said.

Football Federation Australia, CEO, David Gallop said, "The club is delighted to visit such a great city as Sydney and engage with the Australian football community. This will be a night to remember. The confirmation of Juventus as the opponent for the FOXTEL A-League All Stars is another boost to the growing international stature of

the Hyundai A-League."

"The All Stars concept is all about presenting the A-League on the world stage and the presence of Juventus FC in Sydney will guarantee huge domestic and international interest. It's also a great opportunity for A-League players and coaches to test themselves at the highest level.

"Once again we'll make sure the A-League fans have a big say in the selection of the All Stars, which was such a popular feature of the inaugural All Stars match last year."

Mr Gallop also announced that Seven Network has successfully bid for the free to air broadcast rights for the match. "I'm delighted that Seven Network will again be our partner to take this prestigious match into all Australian homes."

Tickets for the FOXTEL A-League All Stars v Juventus FC will go on sale in an exclusive Football Family Pre-Sale Window in January. Membership of the Football Family is free. Go to www.footballfamily.com.au to be eligible for the Juventus pre-sale.

Official Juventus travel packages will go on sale for interstate and international visitors in January. Go to www.sydney.com for updated information.



In Black & White, Old & New



Michel Platini in 1985



Alessandro Del Piero in his Juve days



Current coach Antonio Conte

Andrea Pirlo

Juventus Fact File

Full name: Juventus Football Club S.p.A.
Nickname(s):
La Vecchia Signora (The Old Lady)
La Fidanata d'Italia (The Girlfriend of Italy)
I Bianconeri (The White-Blacks)
Le Zebre (The Zebras)
La Signora Omicidi (The Lady Killer)

Founded: 1 November 1897

Ground: Juventus Stadium

Capacity: 41,254

Owner: Agnelli family

Chairman: Andrea Agnelli

Manager: Antonio Conte

Serie A 2012–13: 1st (Champions)

The Juve Squad

- 1 GK Gianluigi Buffon (captain) (Italy)
- 3 DF Giorgio Chiellini (1st vice-captain) (Italy)
- 4 DF Martín Cáceres (Uruguay)
- 5 DF Angelo Ogbonna (Italy)
- 6 MF Paul Pogba (France)
- 7 MF Simone Pepe (Italy)
- 8 MF Claudio Marchisio (2nd vice-captain) (Italy)
- 9 FW Mirko Vucinic (Montenegro)
- 10 FW Carlos Tévez (Argentina)
- 11 DF Paolo De Ceglie (Italy)
- 12 FW Sebastian Giovinco (Italy)
- 13 DF Federico Peluso (Italy)
- 14 FW Fernando Llorente (Spain)
- 15 DF Andrea Barzagli (Italy)
- 16 DF Marco Motta (Italy)
- 19 DF Leonardo Bonucci (Italy)
- 20 MF Simone Padoin (Italy)
- 21 MF Andrea Pirlo (Italy)
- 22 MF Kwadwo Asamoah (Ghana)
- 23 MF Arturo Vidal (Chile)
- 24 MF Quasim Bouy (Netherlands)
- 26 DF Stephan Lichtsteiner (Switzerland)
- 27 FW Fabio Quagliarella (Italy)
- 30 GK Marco Storari (Italy)
- 33 MF Mauricio Isla (Chile)
- 34 GK Rubinho (Brazil)

The Honours

Serie A Championships:

1905, 1925–26, [83] 1930–31, 1931–32, 1932–33, 1933–34, 1934–35, 1949–50, 1951–52, 1957–58, 1959–60, 1960–61, 1966–67, 1971–72, 1972–73, 1974–75, 1976–77, 1977–78, 1980–81, 1981–82, 1983–84, 1985–86, 1994–95, 1996–97, 1997–98, 2001–02, 2002–03, 2011–12, 2012–13

Coppa Italia

1937–38, 1941–42, 1958–59, 1959–60, 1964–65, 1978–79, 1982–83, 1989–90, 1994–95

Supercoppa Italiana

1995, 1997, 2002, 2003, 2012, 2013

Serie B

2006–07

European titles

European Cup / UEFA Champions League
1984–85, 1995–96

UEFA Cup Winners' Cup: 1983–84

UEFA Cup : 1976–77, 1989–90, 1992–93

UEFA Intertoto Cup: 1999

UEFA Super Cup : 1984, 1996
World Club Cup : 1985, 1996

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Covic and Cole committed to Wanderers

Western Sydney Wanderers are pleased to announce that Ante Covic and Shannon Cole have re-signed with the Club for a further one and two years respectively.

Both Wanderers foundation players, the Club has rewarded the players for their strong starts to the season that has seen the Wanderers a permanent fixture near the top of the table.

Covic has kept a league leading five clean sheets and played every minute of the season so far.

Cole showed his versatility again this season stepping in for the injured Youssouf Hersi at right wing which included the match winning strike against Melbourne Heart in Round 5.

NRMA Insurance Western Sydney Wanderers Head Coach Tony Popovic was delighted to have the two players extend with the Club. "It's great news for the Club and great news for our fans as well," said Popovic.

"Ante (Covic) has been fantastic for us in goals and we're delighted that he's continuing on.

"Shannon has certainly shown his versatility for the team. He came into a position he hasn't played



Ante Covic

in while Youssouf (Hersi) was out and has shown how versatile he has been for this football club and we're delighted that both players will be with us here next year."

Covic, the veteran of the 2006 World Cup and two Hyundai A-League Grand Finals, will ensure his role in retaining the Wanderers stingy defensive record remains until the end of the 2014/15 season.



Aaron Mooy

"Without question I'm happy, I'm still playing at the highest level, I'm still learning, I still want to improve and I've still got all the ambitions I've had for the last 15 years," said Covic.

"I'm really happy here at the club, I've loved it here, the lads are great and the people around the club are fantastic."

Cole was also thrilled to re-sign



with the Club with the player's versatility a key attribute that makes the speedy utility a valuable asset in the Wanderers arsenal.

"It's great to be staying on at the club. It's a great group of players and we all love playing here in front of the best fans in the country," said Cole.

"I feel in this environment I can improve with every session and every game. I'm excited to see just how good I can become with this team."

"I've played in two grand finals, one as a right wing and one as a left back and played for the Socceroos at right back. When everyone knows their roles it makes the transition easier and I really enjoy challenge."

JETS SIGN NICK WARD

Newcastle Jets are pleased to announce the signing of Nick Ward as an injury replacement for the remainder of the 2013/14 Hyundai A-League season.

Ward joins the Jets' squad as cover for defender Scott Neville, who tore his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in the Jets' 2-1 win over Melbourne Victory at AAMI Park in Round 9.

Ward has made 135 Hyundai A-League appearances for Melbourne Victory, Wellington Phoenix and most recently Perth Glory.

The 28-year-old said he was pleased to be joining the Jets and was excited by the Club's potential going forward.

"This offer from the Jets came up and I thought it was a great opportunity for me to get back playing in the A-League at a Club that's heading in a promising direction," Ward said.

"I watched the game against Brisbane and I thought the boys played very well. They were very structured and took their chances well.

"It's a great opportunity for me to come into a young squad and hopefully I can bring some of my experience into the mix and help the team do well for the rest of the season."

After finishing his contract with Perth Glory at the end of the 2012/13 Hyundai A-League season, Ward has maintained his fitness levels training with Sydney FC.

The former Olyroo said he felt ready to play if called upon.

"I've been keeping myself fit training at Sydney FC for the past month, so I would say the only thing missing at the moment is my match fitness, but you can only really get that from playing games," Ward said.

"Knowing that I've signed until the end of the season gives me a chance not to have to rush things, so I can get my match fitness up and hopefully get some good form going."

Jets CEO Robbie Middleby said the signing of Ward would add further depth to the Jets' squad.

"It's unfortunate that we've lost Scott Neville for the rest of the season, but now Nick has an opportunity to come in and show what he can do," Middleby said.

"Nick is a versatile player who can fill a number of positions across the park and he has plenty of experience playing in the A-League, which is an important factor for us as well."

McGlinchey to Vegalta Sendai on loan, Ibini to return on loan

Central Coast Mariners can confirm an agreement has been reached for attacking midfielder Michael McGlinchey to leave the Club on loan to Japan's Vegalta Sendai for the majority of 2014.

With the nimble New Zealander's one-season loan move to Graham Arnold's Sendai now finalised, the Mariners can also confirm 2013 Hyundai A-League Championship winner Bernie Ibini will re-join the Club on loan from Chinese Super League outfit Shanghai SIPG until May 31, 2014.

Under the terms of the arrangement, McGlinchey will be eligible to play for the Mariners until Hyundai A-League 2013/14 round 13 when Central Coast welcomes Melbourne Heart to Gosford's Bluetongue Stadium.

Ibini will be eligible to play for the Club from Hyundai A-League 2013/14 round 14 when the Mariners travel south over the Tasman Sea to take on Wellington Phoenix at Westpac Stadium.

Central Coast Mariners Head Coach Phil Moss said that the Club is satisfied with the outcome of the arrangement which allows McGlinchey to experience Asia's top league, and Ibini to re-join the Mariners family.

"Of course it is not ideal for us to lose a player of Michael McGlinchey's quality mid-way through the season, but when an opportunity to move to a league such as the J.League presents itself, players naturally want to head abroad and test themselves," Moss said.



Outbound: Michael McGlinchey

"Mikey is headed to Vegalta under Arnie (Graham Arnold) for a season and will return as a Central Coast Mariners player when the 2014 J.League season concludes."

"Throughout our negotiations with Mikey and Bernie's representatives, as well as Vegalta and Shanghai, we were clear that we were not willing to let Mikey go on loan unless we were guaranteed to get a high-quality player back in return."

"Everyone that has watched the Hyundai A-League over the past few seasons knows exactly what Bernie Ibini is capable of, and we



Inbound: Bertie Ibini

know he will be an important member of our squad for the remainder of the domestic season as well as our 2014 AFC Champions League Group Stage campaign. We're delighted to welcome Bernie back to the Club."

"Michael McGlinchey is yet another success story of the Central Coast Mariners, having made great strides as a player since joining the us from Glasgow Celtic in 2009. We hope large numbers of fans will flock to Bluetongue Stadium on New Year's Eve and January 5 to wish him well throughout his loan spell in Japan," Moss concluded.

IFILL DEFIANT AFTER SERIOUS INJURY



Wellington Phoenix talisman Paul Ifill is determined to continue playing football despite facing eight to 12 months rehabilitation after sustaining a grade 3 rupture of the Achilles tendon in Sunday's 1-0 win over Sydney FC at Westpac Stadium.

Ifill was this week resting at his Hataitai home after undergoing an operation to mend the tendon and was in a typically defiant mood. "Football has been my life and I want to continue playing at whatever level I can," Ifill, 34, said.

"Whether it is in the park with my mates, in the ASB Championship or the A-League I will be playing.

"I will do the rehab and then see where we are but no way am I going to call it a day."

The Barbados international said the injury was a massive shock

and at first he thought someone had trodden on him.

"I went to push off then heard a bang and thought someone had trod on my Achilles.

"I thought 'that has to be a foul' and then realised there was no-one around me and the pain was so intense."

It will be the third successive year that Ifill has spent Christmas in a moon boot.

In 2011 he broke his leg playing against Newcastle Jets on December 18.

The following year he had an ankle operation on December 21 and the latest injury came on December 22.

Showing he hadn't lost his sense of humour Ifill said: "You can tell Ernie that if I do come back I won't be playing in December!"

Kwasnik ruled out for the season

Central Coast Mariners striker Adam Kwasnik will miss the remainder of the Club's 2013/14 season due to a knee injury.

Kwasnik will undergo surgery in the New Year to address a knee cartilage problem, with the recovery phase from the operation rendering him unavailable for the remainder of the campaign.

Kwasnik is understandably disappointed to have been ruled out for the rest of the season, however said his focus is on returning to full fitness and competitive action as soon as possible.

"I am very disappointed, but my focus is getting back with the squad for next pre-season," he said. "First and foremost I just want to play in the Hyundai A-League again. It will be a long process, but hopefully I can get back."

Kwasnik has played 158 competitive matches and scored 42 goals for the Mariners since 2005.

Club management will be considering its options over the coming weeks in regards to potentially adding an injury replacement player to its squad in place of Kwasnik.

NAGAI OUT FOR 4

Perth Glory can confirm Ryo Nagai will miss up to four weeks after sustaining a tear to his right hamstring during the club's 0-0 draw with Adelaide United.

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Ibrahimovic



Neymar



Thiago Silva

AUSTRALIA'S 2013 NUMBER ONE NIKE TEAM WEAR SUPPLIER

SCOREBOARD

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Brisbane Roar	11	8	0	3	19	9	10	24
2 Western Sydney Wanderers	11	6	4	1	13	7	6	22
3 Melbourne Victory	11	5	3	3	17	11	6	18
4 Newcastle Jets	11	5	3	3	13	11	2	18
5 Sydney FC	11	6	0	5	13	13	0	18
6 Central Coast Mariners	11	4	4	3	10	13	-3	16
7 Perth Glory	11	3	4	4	10	12	-2	13
8 Adelaide United	11	2	4	5	16	17	-1	10
9 Wellington Phoenix	11	1	4	6	10	16	-6	7
10 Melbourne Heart	11	0	4	7	9	21	-12	4

ROUND ELEVEN

Melbourne Heart 1
(Nick Kalmar 80)
Melbourne Victory 3
(Mitch Nichols 38, 63, James Troisi 60)
Crowd: 26,491 @ AAMI Park

Brisbane Roar 0
Newcastle Jets 2
(Donachie 34og, Gibbs 87)
Crowd: 14,848 @Suncorp Stadium

Wellington Phoenix 1
(Stein Huysegems 33)
Sydney FC 0
Crowd: 6,339 at Westpac Stadium

Perth Glory 0
Adelaide United 0
Crowd: 9436 at nib Stadium

Western Sydney Wanderers 2
(Juric 20, Hersi 33)
Central Coast Mariners 0
Crowd: 15,786 at Parramatta Stadium

TOP GOAL SCORERS

- 07James Troisi(Victory)
- 06Adam Taggart(Jets)
Besart Berisha(Roar)
- 04Alessandro Del Piero(SFC)
Matthew Smith(Roar)
Osama Malik(Adelaide)
Henrique(Roar)
David Williams(Heart)
Jeronimo Neumann(AUFC)
- 03Stein Huysegems(Phoenix)
Archie Thompson(Victory)
Mitch Nichols(Victory)
Ranko Despotovic(SFC)
Sergio Olivare Cirio(AUFC)
Fabio Ferreira(AUFC)
Sidnei(Glory)
Ivan Franjic(Roar)
Marcos Flores(Mariners)



James Troisi moves clear at the top of the charts after his contribution in the Derby.

THIS WEEK	Round 12	Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
	Thu Dec 26	Sydney FC v Brisbane Roar	Allianz Stadium	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
	Fri Dec 27	Melbourne Heart v Wellington Phoenix	AAMI Park	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
	Sat Dec 28	Melbourne Victory v West Sydney Wanderers	AAMI Park	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
	Sun Dec 29	Adelaide United v Newcastle Jets	Hindmarsh Stadium	4:30 PM	5:00 PM
	Tue Dec 31	Central Coast Mariners v Perth Glory	Bluetongue Stadium	6:00 PM	6:00 PM
NEXT WEEK	Round 13	Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
	Wed Jan 1	West Sydney Wanderers v Wellington Phoenix	Parramatta Stadium	7:00 PM	7:00 PM
	Fri Jan 3	Adelaide United v Sydney FC	Hindmarsh Stadium	7:00 PM	7:30 PM
	Sat Jan 4	Newcastle Jets v Perth Glory	Hunter Stadium	5:30 PM	5:30 PM
	Sat Jan 4	Melbourne Victory v Brisbane Roar	AAMI Park	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
	Sun Jan 5	Central Coast Mariners v Melbourne Heart	Bluetongue Stadium	5:00 PM	5:00 PM

AGAINST ALL ODDS	
A-League Title 2013/14	
Brisbane Roar	3.50
Wanderers	4.00
Melbourne Victory	5.00
Central Coast Mariners	9.00
Sydney FC	9.00
Newcastle Jets	8.00
Adelaide United	15.0
Perth Glory	17.0
Wellington Phoenix	51.0
Melbourne Heart	67.0

A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK Round 11

Compiled by
Nick Aimies



Danny Vukovic (Perth Glory)
Undoubtedly the Glory's player of the season so far, the keeper was again in fine form against Adelaide United, making a series of impressive saves to secure yet another clean sheet. If the Glory attack had the same steely resolve that Vukovic possesses they may well be higher up the ladder.

Louis Fenton (Wellington Phoenix)
The young fullback was massacred by Sidney Sciola two weeks ago at NIB Stadium; however since then the young man has performed with aplomb on the right side of defence and shone against Sydney FC on Sunday. Matched up against Richard Garcia, his side's primary attacking outlet in the absence of Alessandro Del Piero, the young Kiwi nullified his more experienced opponent with apparent ease.

Matthew Spiranovic (Western Sydney Wanderers)
The central defender was linked with a move to city rivals Sydney FC this week but it certainly didn't impact upon his performance as the Victorian successfully shackled Daniel McBreen while also finding the time to clear Marcos Flores' goal-bound effort off the line. Tony Popovic would be wise to sort out this man's future quickly, along with the likes of Ono and Hersi.

Jack Clisby (Perth Glory)
Granted a spell in the starting eleven on account of William Gallas' continued absence, the young West Australian has seized his opportunity alongside Michael Thwaite in the heart of defence. Tasked with shutting down the robust Bruce Djite the 21-year-old was up to the challenge, keeping the Adelaide striker under wraps until his substitution late in the game.

Adama Traore (Melbourne Victory)
It's another TOTW appearance for Adama Traore after a vintage display in the Melbourne Derby on Saturday. It was a performance typified by the Ivorian's trademark overlapping runs and attacking menace after Kisorbo's early red card gave the Victory the freedom of the pitch.

Shinji Ono (Western Sydney Wanderers)
The Japanese superstar has only been able to influence the season in patches due to injuries but he was at his mercurial best as the Wanderers disposed of the Mariners at Parramatta Stadium. Though he should've put his side in the lead early on he was on hand to deliver a perfect cross for Youssuf Hersi to

Melbourne Victory's got into the Christmas spirit with two goals in the Derby.
Photo: ANITA MILAS



tap-in for the second and ultimately game-killing goal. The signs are looking ominous for the rest of the competition, the Wanderers are coming.

Ruben Zadkovich (Newcastle Jets)
Scientists would be well-served in studying Ruben Zadkovich in the search for renewable energy sources after the Newcastle captain put in another tireless shift at Suncorp Stadium. The number eight covered every uneven patch of grass against the Roar and is thriving under the added responsibility Gary van Egmond has given him this season. Josh Brillante - Newcastle Jets
Gary van Egmond's side grabbed their second win of the season over table-topping Brisbane on Friday night, with Brillante arguably the man of the match. The young midfielder, recently named under-20

footballer of the year at the Australian Football Awards, put in a tremendous performance against the likes of Miller, Broich and McKay and set up substitute Joe Gibbs for his side's second late on.

Mitch Nichols (Melbourne Victory)
The Victory midfielder was pushed forward into more of a false nine role in the Melbourne Derby and thrived, scoring two goals himself and setting up teammate James Troisi for his side's third. Nichols continues to be a revelation in the middle of the park, helping his side transition seamlessly into the reign of Kevin Muscat.

Stein Huysegems (Wellington Phoenix)
The Belgian has been snatching at his chances all season, but Huysegems stepped up against Sydney,

rounding Janjetovic to put away what proved to be the winner at Westpac Stadium. Whilst he spurned a few glorious chances to put the game to bed, the constant threat he posed to Frank Farina's defence is enough to make out TOTW.

Tom Juric (Western Sydney Wanderers)
Some players take a few matches to return to form after an injury, but the young striker didn't miss a beat against the Mariners, scoring his side's first and giving Tony Popovic's men the focal point in attack that they've been missing in his absence. If he can stay injury free the rest of the season the 22-year-old could be a potential bolter for the Socceroos, marking a meteoric rise since his return from relative anonymity in Croatia less than twelve months ago.

Ten-man Heart picked apart by Victory

Melbourne Heart



1

Melbourne Victory



3

Match Details

Melbourne Heart 1
(Nick Kalmar 80')

Melbourne Victory 3 (Mitch Nichols 38', 63', James Troisi 60')
Crowd: 26491 At Aami Park
Referee: Ben Williams

Melbourne Heart: 1. Andrew Redmayne (Gk), 3.Robbie Welaert, 8. Massimo Murodcca, 10. Harry Kewell (14. Golgol Mebrahtu 66') 11. Michael Mifsud (6. Patrick Gerhardt 26'), 15. David Williams, 16. Aziz Behich, 17. Jason Hoffman, 22. Nick Kalmar, 23. Mate Dugandzic, 24. Patrick Kisorbo.

Substitutes Not Used: 15. Iain Ramsey, 20. Andrea Migliorini, Tando Velaphi (Gk)
Yellow Cards: Dugandzic 57'
Red Cards: Kisorbo 21'.

Melbourne Victory: 1. Nathan Coe (Gk), 2. Pablo Contreras, 3. Adama Traore, 5. Mark Milligan (C), 6. Leigh Broxham, 9. Kosta Barbarouses, 11. Connor Pain (13. Andrew Nabbout 76'), 14. James Troisi (Guilherme Finkler 60'), 15. Mitch Nichols, 23. Adrian Leijer, 25. Jason Geria (24. Scott Galloway 82')

Substitutes Not Used: 4. Nick Ansell, 20. Lawrence Thomas (Gk)
Yellow Cards: Pain 24', Broxham 75', Nabbout 84'
Red Cards: Nil

By Chris Hearn

Melbourne Victory took out Derby Day honours with a 3-1 win over the Melbourne Heart in front of 26,491 at AAMI Park.

The home side were forced to play with a man down for 74 minutes after Patrick Kisorbo was sent off. A brace to Mitch Nichols and one to James Troisi did the damage before Nick Kalmar scored what proved to be a consolation. The result puts Heart coach John Aloisi under increasing pressure as his side are now on a run of 16 games without a win. They would get a much-needed boost only minutes before kick-off, however.

Archie Thompson, who has previously scored three goals in this fixture, was ruled out after tightness in his injured hamstring in the warm-up. Connor Pain was the man to replace him.

Aloisi's side were bright in the early stages, with Michael Mifsud firing efforts towards goal before disaster struck.

Former Leeds defender, Kisorbo, was sent off for a lunge on Connor pain which replays suggested was the correct call by referee Ben Williams.

Michael Mifsud was sacrificed for Patrick Gerhardt, as Aloisi needed to plug the hole in defence that his departing defender had left. As a result, Heart lacked a natural outlet in attacking areas, meaning their rivals dominated territory and possession.

Despite this, Muscat looked a frustrated figure thereafter, with his side seemingly unable to break down the hosts.

This changed, however, on 38 minutes thanks a poor clearance from Heart goalkeeper, Andrew Redmayne. His scuffed pass only travelled as far as Mark Milligan 35 yards out, who's first time pass played Nichols in and he made no mistake. This goal was met by rapturous applause by those in the terraces wearing blue, and their side grew in stature thereafter. Conor



Melbourne Victory's Mitch Nichols silences the Yarra Side with a brace . Photo: JIM WEBSTER

Pain hit the upright with a well placed 20 yard strike and then skied Adama Traore's low cross over the bar with the Heart defence unable to cope with his movement with half time approaching. Minutes after the break, Robbie Welaert played a long ball in behind Pablo Contreras to the on-running Kewell, but as he shaped to strike the ball, the Chilean recovered well to clear the danger. The Heart then went desperately close to an equaliser via former

Victory marquee, Harry Kewell. He controlled a floated Behich cross with his chest, and even though he was surrounded by defenders, managed to squeeze a shot through but it flew inches wide of the upright. The home side would rue those missed opportunities, as James Troisi fired the visitors ahead on 59 minutes for his seventh of the season. His one-two with Nichols saw the ball squared 18 yards from goal,

and he curled a right-footed effort inside the post. He was immediately substituted for Gui Finkler, who was instrumental three minutes later for the third goal of the contest. Nichols found the Brazilian on the edge of the area, and with the centre of the Heart defence opened up, Nichols was played in with only Redmayne to beat. Kewell was substituted for Golgol Mebrahtu, which drew boos from large sections of the Victory sup-

porters in attendance. The Heart looked a beaten side, but pulled one back on 76 minutes after Nathan Coe's punch rebounded off Nick Kalmar's head but it was a case of too little, too late. Melbourne Heart host the Wellington Phoenix on Friday night, knowing anything other than a win is likely to cost Aloisi his job, while the Victory host the Western Sydney Wanderers.



Patrick Kisorbo sees red for his tackle on Connor Pain. Photo: LIVE PIXEL



Heart pull one back after the ball hits Nick Kalmar (22). Photo: LIVE PIXEL

TIME TO SILENCE THE ROAR

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

KICK-OFF 7:30PM @ AAMI PARK

TICKETEK.COM.AU

WESTFIELD W-LIGUE KICK-OFF/GATES OPEN 4.45PM

Brisbane Roar

0

Newcastle Jets

2

Match Details

Brisbane Roar 0
Newcastle Jets 2 (Donachie 34' Og, Gibbs 86')

Friday, 20 December 2013
Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane
Referee: Peter Green

Brisbane Roar: 1. Michael Theo, 2. Matthew Smith (C), 5. Ivan Franjic, 7. Besart Berisha, 11. Liam Miller (23. Dimitri Petratos 58'), 15. James Donachie, 17. Matt Mckay, 18. Luke Brattan, 19. Jack Hingert (10. Henrique 70'), 22. Thomas Broich, 26. Corey Brown (14. Diogo Ferreira 84')

Substitutes Not Used: 20. Matthew Acton (Gk), 27. Brandon Borrello

Yellow Cards: Franjic 93'
Red Cards: Nil

Newcastle Jets Squad: 1. Mark Birighitti (Gk), 3. Taylor Regan, 4. Kew Jaliens, 5. Ben Kantarovski (6. Zenon Caravella 82'), 7. Andrew Hoole (11. Craig Goodwin 66'), 8. Ruben Zadkovich (C), 15. Josh Brillante, 16. Jacob Pepper, 18. James Brown, 21. Sam Galloway, 22. Adam Taggart (13. Joseph Gibbs 82'),

Substitutes Not Used: 20. Ben Kennedy (Gk), 24. Mitchell Oxborow

Yellow Cards: Galloway 22', Goodwin 86'
Red Cards: Nil

Jets Soar Once More at Suncorp

By Jarrod Ellis

A night that promised so much ended in disappointment for league leaders Brisbane Roar as they went down 2-0 to the visiting Newcastle Jets.

The match marked the 100th and 50th match milestones for Michael Theo and Luke Brattan respectively and a win for the home side would have meant Brisbane were the first A-League side to reach 100 wins in the competition.

Instead it was Newcastle who left Suncorp Stadium with the spoils as has so often been the case in this fixture.

A first half-own goal from James Donachie and a late goal from Joseph Gibbs separated the sides, Brisbane unable to overcome a determined and organised Jets outfit, which despite not seeing much time in the Roar half deserved their win.

Liam Miller wasted a wonderful chance for Brisbane only eight minutes in, Ivan Franjic cut the ball back to the Irishman and left Miller with the task of having to place the ball in the far corner but his effort skidded wide of the post.

Brisbane threatened again in the 16th minute, a run across the top of the penalty area from Thomas Broich ended with a lofted cross to Besart Berisha but the resulting header wasn't enough to trouble Birighitti.

Berisha would be the catalyst for another chance only two minutes later, stealing a loose pass on the left hand side of the Jets area, combined with McKay to setup Franjic but the Roar midfielder elected not to hit the ball first time and instead had to attempt a header after some poor control that once again ended up in the hands of Birighitti.

The visitors were growing in confidence after a disappointing start and their efforts were duly rewarded in the 35th minute. James Donachie experienced a difficult



Top shot-stopper Michael Theo reaches 100 games for the Roar and receives an award to mark the milestone.. Photo: KEITH EIGELAND

Joey Gibbs scores for the Jets moments after coming on the field as sub and is pounced upon by a delighted Craig Goodwin.

match against the Jets down at Hunter Stadium last month and his poor luck continued when the young defender turned the ball into his own net attempting to clear a cross from Andrew Hoole.

Adam Taggart created a glorious chance for his side to extend their lead in the second half, racing past Corey Brown on the outside and then cutting back an inviting pass that begged to be hit into the Brisbane net. However no-one followed through and Brisbane was able to clear easily.

The Roar had their own opportunities and could have pulled level six minutes in, a Brown cross that skidded across the face of goal

wasn't able to find Franjic at the back post, Kew Jaliens intercepting at the last moment.

One goal to the good Newcastle was by now perfectly happy to sit back and soak up the pressure before attempting to hit the home side on the break. Adam Taggart and James Brown provided willing outlets, troubling the likes of Matt Smith and Brown with their mix of industry and skill.

Newcastle were denied a penalty in the 73rd minute, a corner deflected onto the outstretched arm of Matt Smith, striking the defender squarely on the hand but match referee Peter Green wasn't interested in the protests of the Jets players.

Brisbane continued to press for an equaliser as the match drew to a close but the Roar was unable to unlock the Newcastle defence.

That inability to secure the breakthrough and the amount of men committed forward eventually lead to Newcastle's second goal in the 86th minute. A long cross field pass found Brillante out wide on the right whom then outpaced Luke Brattan before delivering a superb cross into the Brisbane six yard box. Joseph Gibbs was on hand to convert and after an unsteady first touch slid the ball underneath Michael Theo.

The 2-0 result continues Newcastle's remarkable run against Bris-

bane at Suncorp Stadium, the last six matches in this fixture including only a single Brisbane win, the Jets having left the Sunshine State victorious on eight of twelve occasions.

	Match Stats	
23	Tackles	33
13	Total Shots	7
607	Total Passes	297
66.4%	Possession	33.6%
8	Corners	4
2	Offsides	3
7	Fouls committed	22

Man of the Match
Kew Jaliens (Jets)



Jamie Donachie steers the ball into the net for an own goal, leaving Michael Theo stranded.



Hot tub! James Brown (Jets) cuts the supply to Ivan Franjic (Roar).



Nix Win At Last, But Celebrations Tainted By Injury

Wellington Phoenix



1

Sydney FC



0

Match Details

Wellington Phoenix 1
(Stein Huysegems 33)
Sydney FC 0
Crowd: 6,339 At Westpac Stadium

Wellington Phoenix: Glen Moss, Manny Muscat, Ben Sigmund, Andrew Durante, Vince Lia, Albert Riera, Louis Fenton, Kenny Cunningham (Jason Hicks 68'), Carlos Hernandez (Leo Bertos 85'), Stein Huysegems, Paul Ifill (Jeremy Brockie 49')

Unused Substitutes:
Lewis Italiano, Michael Boxall

Sydney FC: Vedran Janjetovic, Nikola Petkovic, Sebastian Ryall, Pedj Bojic (Matt Jurman 62'), Chris Naumoff (Corey Gameiro 46'), Nick Carle, Ranko Despotovic, Joel Chianese, Ali Abbas, Matt Thompson (Yairo Yau 68'), Richard Garcia

Unused Substitutes:
Ivan Necevski, Terry Mcflynn

By Joe Gallagher in NZ

The way the Wellington Phoenix have toiled for their maiden A-League win this season, it seemed inevitable that grave sacrifices were going to have to be made before they finally secured three points against Sydney FC at Westpac Stadium on Sunday.

Belgian striker Stein Huysegems was the hero for the home side, netting a first-half winner in a 1-0 triumph, but the aftermath of the breakthrough has been overshadowed by a season-ending – and, perhaps, career-ending – injury to the talismanic Paul Ifill.

The Barbadan, largely played as an impact substitute by Ernie Merrick this term, was given a start ahead of the out-of-sorts Jeremy Brockie but had to be stretchered off the park early in the second half after innocuously suffering a rupture to his Achilles tendon.

His side's wastefulness in front of goal has been well documented this season but they were perhaps handed a slice of fortune back their way early in the first half after Ranko Despotovic's centre found Joel Chianese wide in the middle of the penalty with not even goalkeeper Glen Moss to beat.

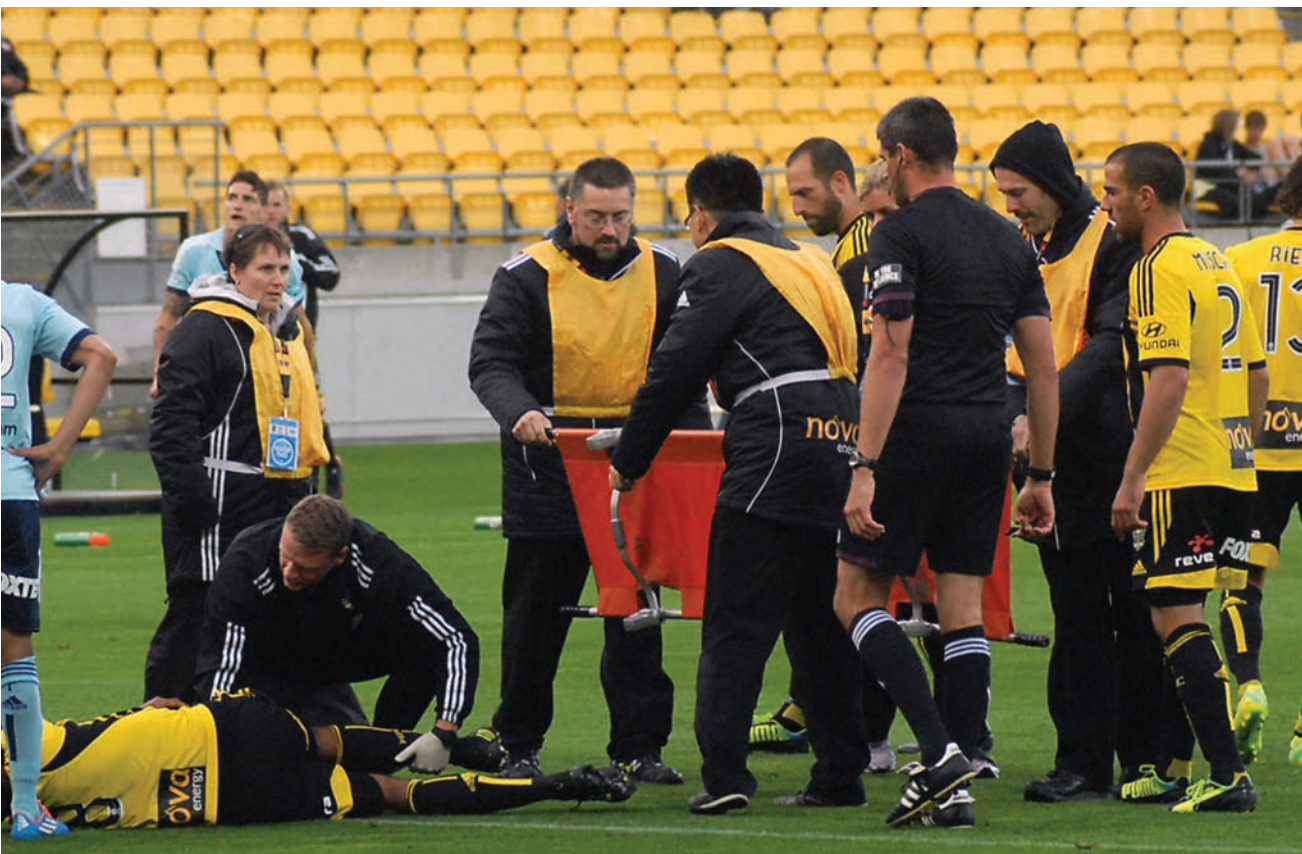
Chianese had to stretch for the ball but should certainly have buried the chance, and his side ultimately lived to regret this opportunity.

The irony was that it was the type of cruel luck that has struck down the Phoenix on so many occasions this year which came to their aid in their last A-League fixture before Christmas.

The home side otherwise dominated the opening spell, and Huysegems could have had a hat-trick before the interval were it not for some questionable finishing, the intervention of the woodwork and the dismissal of a vociferous penalty appeal by referee Peter O'Leary.

Ifill himself could even have opened the scoring before the half-hour, twisting inside a would-be tackler before scuffing a shot at the legs of Vedran Janjetovic.

Huysegems might have been starting to rue his luck, after having also spurned a series of gilt-edged chances in Thursday night's loss to the Central Coast Mariners by the same



The dreaded stretcher arrives to carry off Paul Ifill (Wellington Phoenix). The striker will now miss the rest of the season.

scoreline, but the Belgian would not be denied his third goal of the season after 33 minutes.

Carlos Hernandez – reinstated to the starting line-up ahead of Jason Hicks, rumours of a contractual falling-out with the club seemingly a distant memory – delivered a smart ball for Huysegems, who dropped his shoulder, rounded Janjetovic and slotted home with ease.

The finish into an open net was little more than a formality, but given their fortune over the past few months in front of goal, every Phoenix-supporting member of the 6,339 in attendance had their hearts in their mouths.

It was a deserved assist for the Costa Rican Hernandez, who has been one of Merrick's standouts this term, and

earned his side a slender lead at the break.

Ifill received a warm send-off to open the second spell before his replacement, Brockie, drilled a shot wide of Janjetovic's upright.

The Phoenix continued their hunt for a second goal as Hernandez blazed over uncharacteristically from a free-kick.

The midfielder's only goal for Merrick this season has been from a penalty area, and he was given a golden opportunity after the hour to score from open play.

Huysegems cut infield before sliding a clever reverse path into Hernandez's path, but his thumped shot was straight at Janjetovic and the Sky Blues survived yet another nervy moment.

Frank Farina's side struggled to create opportunities to get back into the match, resorting to long range strikes, few of which tested Moss except for one drilled effort by substitute Yairo Yau.

They were perhaps punished for resting stars Brett Emerton and Alessandro del Piero for the trip across the Tasman.

Credit to Wellington – they continued to press for another goal even when more pragmatic sides might have started to wind down the clock. In stoppage time Huysegems found his way through Sydney's backline before blazing well over the bar, when a square pass to the open Brockie might have been the better option.

It's that sort of cohesion at the top of the park which has seriously hin-

dered the New Zealanders in 2013, and surely Brockie wouldn't have been guilty of entering a third successive contender for miss of the season – would he?

But his side held on to record a deserved win – perhaps one that had even been deserved several weeks ago – and the mood at full-time was an interesting cocktail of relief, celebration and anxiety as the club awaited news of the severity of Ifill's injury.

They remain second-bottom but the Christmas period will feel a lot more comfortable with three points finally in the bank.

Wellington are away next at cellar-dwellers Melbourne Heart, while Sydney FC return home to face the league-leading Brisbane Roar on Boxing Day.



Kenny Cunningham (Phoenix) makes sure Seb Ryalls has a busy afternoon.



Stein Huysegems (Phoenix) puts the Sky Blues under pressure as Seb Ryalls closes in.

Couch Potato

ALL TIMES ARE AEDT



FRIDAY 27TH DECEMBER

Scottish Premiership Round 18 St Johnstone v Celtic 1:55am LIVE
Sky Bet Championship Round 23
Blackpool v Leeds 4:10am LIVE
Sky Bet Championship Round 23 Nottm Forest v QPR 6:25am LIVE

SATURDAY 28TH DECEMBER

Scottish Premiership Round 18 Highlights Show 12:30pm 1st Airing
Bundesliga Mid-Season Review
Highlights Show 1:00pm 1st Airing

SUNDAY 29TH DECEMBER

Skrill Premier Round 26 Hereford v Forest Green 7:45am 1st Airing
Scottish Premiership Round 19
Inverness v Celtic 11:25pm LIVE

MONDAY 30TH DECEMBER

Sky Bet Championship Round 24 Watford v QPR 1:55am LIVE
Sky Bet Championship Round 24
Highlights Show 10:40pm 1st Airing

TUESDAY 31ST DECEMBER

Scottish League 1 Round 18 Dunfermline v Rangers 6:40am LIVE
Scottish Premiership Round 19
Highlights Show 7:30pm 1st Airing

WEDNESDAY 1ST JANUARY

Skrill Premier Round 27 Barnet v Luton 10:55pm LIVE

THURSDAY 2ND JANUARY

Sky Bet Championship Round 25 Yeovil v Watford 4:25am LIVE

FRIDAY 3RD JANUARY

Scottish League 1 Round 19 Airdrie v Rangers 4:25am LIVE
Scottish Premiership Round 20
Hibernian v Hearts 6:40am LIVE

SATURDAY 4TH JANUARY

RaboDirect Pro 12 Round 12 Ulster v Munster 6:05am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Sky Bet League 1 Round 25
Gillingham v Wolves 6:40am LIVE
Aviva Premiership Round 12 Northampton v Harlequins 6:45am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Scottish Premiership Round 21
Highlights Show 1:05pm 1st Airing
Scottish Premiership Round 21 Motherwell v Inverness 11:40pm LIVE



SBS ONE

Friday December 20th
7:30 pm A-League Live – Round 12: Melbourne v Wellington Phoenix

Every Sunday
4:30 pm UEFA Champions League Magazine

Every Monday
4:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial
11:00 pm The World Game

Every Thursday
8:30 pm Thursday FC
11:00 pm UEFA Champions League Magazine

SBS TWO
Every Monday
8:40 pm A-League Highlights Show

Every Tuesday
5:00 pm A-League Highlights Show

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

All times AEDT
All games LIVE unless stated

WEEK 20

Sat Dec 28 West Ham v West Brom
11.35 pm Fox 1

Sun Dec 29 Norwich v Manchester United
1.50 am Fox 1

Sun Dec 29 Aston Villa v Swansea
1.50 am Viewers Choice

Sun Dec 29 Hull v Fulham
1.50 am Viewers Choice

Sun Dec 29 Manchester City v Crystal Palace
1.50 am Viewers Choice

Sun Dec 29 Cardiff v Sunderland
4.20 am Fox 1

Mon Dec 30 Newcastle v Arsenal
12.20 am Fox 1

Mon Dec 30 Everton v Southampton
12.20 am Fox 3

Mon Dec 30 Chelsea v Liverpool
2.45 am Fox 1

Mon Dec 30 Tottenham v Stoke
2.50 am Fox 3

Wed Jan 1 Swansea v Manchester City
11.35 pm Fox 1

Thu Jan 2 Arsenal v Cardiff
1.50 am Fox 1

Thu Jan 2 Liverpool v Hull
1.50 am Fox 2

Thu Jan 2 Southampton v Chelsea
1.50 am Fox 3

Thu Jan 2 Fulham v West Ham
1.50 am Viewers Choice

Thu Jan 2 Stoke v Everton
1.50 am Viewers Choice

Thu Jan 2 Sunderland v Aston Villa
1.50 am Viewers Choice

Thu Jan 2 West Brom v Newcastle
1.50 am Viewers Choice

Thu Jan 2 Crystal Palace v Norwich
1.50 am Fox Sports News

Thu Jan 2 Man Utd v Tottenham
4.15 am Fox 1

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE

ALL GAMES LIVE ON FOX 1

Fri Dec 27 Melb Heart v Phoenix 8pm
Sat Dec 28 Victory v Wanderers 7.30 pm
Sun Dec 29 Adelaide v Jets 5.00 pm
Tue Dec 31 Mariners v Perth 7.30 pm

Wed Jan 1 Wanderers v Phoenix 7.30 pm
Fri Jan 3 Adelaide v Sydney 7.30 pm
Sat Jan 4 Newcastle v Perth 5.30 pm
Sat Jan 4 Victory v Brisbane 7.45 pm
Sun Jan 5 Mariners v Heart 5.00 pm

FOX SPORTS FC

Every Tuesday 8.30 pm

SUNDAY SHOOT OUT

Every Sunday 7.00pm

SANTO, SAM & ED'S TOTAL FOOTBALL
Mondays at 7.30pm on FOX Sports 1

SPANISH LA LIGA

Sun Jan 5 Rayo Vallecano v Villareal
7.55 am Fox 1

Mon Jan 6 Real Sociedad v Ath Bilbao
6.55 am Fox 1

TV Heaven

Matthew Naqvi

It is safe to say Christmas is giving me some pretty awesome present this year. Liverpool is on top of the English Premier League, Melbourne Victory Women is on top of the W-League and Melbourne Victory sit in third spot in the A-League. Thanks Santa! Hopefully everyone is happy where their teams sit; if not, then I hope this week changes things for you.

The standout game this weekend in A-League action is the Saturday night clash between Melbourne Victory and Western Sydney Wanderers. Victory is playing well and in good form, coming off a comprehensive 3-1 win against cellar dwellers

Melbourne Heart. The forwards and attacking midfielders were dominant all game with Connor Pain causing havoc with his runs down the left, Kosta Barbarouses and James Troisi were dominant while Mitch Nichols was the player of the match with his brace and constant pressure.

Wanderers are currently in second place after putting on a clinical performance against Central Coast Mariners. The Wanderers were glad to have Youssef Hersi back on the scoreboard, while Tomi Juric scored from a terrific bicycle kick that will surely be a contender for goal of the year.

Wanderers will be focussed on defence and keeping Victory in check, while being aggressive on the counterattack. Victory on the other hand only plays one way and their all out attack should prevail in a close game. 2-1 for the final score.

The other game to watch this week in local action is the clash between

Melbourne Heart and Wellington Phoenix on Friday night. Both sides sit at the complete opposite end of the table and are struggling to get results. Both teams are playing well in patches but can't find the back of the net and are horribly inadequate in defence. The game is bound to be a spectacle simply for the jobs at stake; if Heart loses this game, surely John Aloisi will be shown the door. I expect an eventful game with plenty of free kicks, cards and contentious calls. The game should be close and end in a 2-1 win, with Heart getting their first win in over 300 days to save Aloisi's job.

In EPL the game of the round is another top 3 battle this time between Manchester City and Liverpool. Both teams are coming off big wins with Liverpool crushing Cardiff at home and City comprehensively defeated Fulham away from home.

Manchester City is flying this year and is piling on the goals

while Liverpool is doing the same against their opponents. This game shouldn't be any different and this should be a corker for the neutrals with a goal feast on the cards. Luis Suarez should be the difference with Liverpool getting the win 3-2.

W-League is on a break for the Christmas period and will return in the New Year.

To cap everything make sure you watch the exciting and insightful analysis programs. SBS delivers gold with The A-League Highlights Show hosted by former Soccer Australia coach Craig Foster and The World Game on Monday night. Santo, Sam and Ed's Total Football on FoxTEL for plenty of laughs and shenanigans. Thursday FC is your go to for light entertainment on Thursday night.

Enjoy plenty of football action this weekend and hopefully your team wins. Enjoy your Christmas and New Year celebrations as well!

The PFA Column



By Beau Busch

Professional football leaves little margin for error. Make the wrong career choice and it is difficult to recover. Make the right one and your dreams may become reality. Former Central Coast Mariners star Rostyn Griffiths shares with the PFA what its like to make a decision with so much at stake.

"I did worry a lot about what impact it would have on my chances to go back to Europe," Rostyn Griffiths says of the decision to leave the Mariners for Chinese club Guangzhou R&F.

Having rarely given playing in Asia much thought the goal was always to return to Europe, where he had spent six years with then English Premier League club Blackburn Rovers. "I had always said that I didn't want to go to Asia at that stage in my career," Griffiths said. "That was something that I thought was better left until later."

With only a couple of months left on his contract at the Mariners the midfielder was eager to explore possibilities in Europe. "It was all up in the air," he said. "I wasn't sure whether there would be options in Europe or whether I would stay at the Mariners."

With nothing concrete, the offer from the newly promoted Chinese club came in. "It felt a little too good to turn down at the time. I had concerns but when it was sat in front of you it was difficult to say no."

The financial rewards were substantial and experiencing life in a vastly different culture was appealing but Griffiths knew it could come at a cost – his hopes of a return to Europe. With few players having successfully progressed from the CSL to Europe the midfielder knew it was a big risk. Just how big was difficult to gauge at the time.

He had seen little of Chinese football and was going into the unknown. Making things even more difficult was the fact that there was no time for research. An offer was made and the next day he would be heading to China for a medical and to take a look at the club.

"It all happened in the space of two days. There was not a lot of

time to weigh things up. I went to China signed the contract and the next day I was living there. It was all unknown, you are not really sure what the level of football is going to be like or the standard of living or whether it is going to be a bad move for your career or a good move."

Thankfully for Griffiths football and life in China surprised him and exceeded his expectations.

"It took time to adapt. Training was a big shock compared to what I was used to. It is not as intense so you have to get yourself up for it a bit more. The language barrier is quite a big thing, when I first arrived there would be three different languages spoke before they spoke English to me. Once I got used to things like that it became easier.

"I think it's a much better standard then people give it credit for. There are very good technical players, the crowds are big and I have played with top players like Yakubu, I worked under a top manager in Sven (Goran Eriksson) and played against the likes of Anelka and Drogba. Off the pitch I enjoyed life in China, especially once I found my way round the city and made friends and finally tracked down a golf course."

With his contract with R&F having now expired the former Mariners midfielder is now weighing up his next move. Despite having thoroughly enjoyed his time in China Griffiths said he was still unsure of the impact his two-and-a-half seasons in the CSL would have on his ability to make a return to Europe.

"I'm still trying to work out whether it is going to make it more difficult to maybe go to Europe. I think previously it definitely would have but I think people's percep-

tion of the CSL is changing. They have had the right foreign coaches come out and help improve it and I think overall they have increased their standard quite dramatically. You still don't see players making the move from there to Europe but I don't think it will be too far away before that becomes more common.

"For me what it did do was set me up so that I can now take a risk and go on trial, or take my time to find the right move. As opposed to when I was in the A-League I had to get a contract sorted straight away because I would not have been able to survive more than a couple of weeks financially."

Whilst eager to investigate any options in Europe Griffiths said he would not rule out a return to Asia. His destination will be determined by where he sees the best opportunity to improve and where gives him the best chance of catching the eye of Socceroos boss Ange Postecoglou.

"I just want to play football where

I am going to get better and also if you look at the National Team anybody who is playing at a good level and is playing well has pretty much got a shot. Already Ange has shown that with his team selection and if I could be part of the squad in the years to come I would be a very happy man."

Despite having enjoyed his adventure in China Griffiths said he would recommend to young Australian players looking to do the same to give it plenty of consideration before doing so.

"I would ask them first about their own ambition and what they are trying to achieve. If they are going there with the hope of bouncing to Europe I would say it could make it a little harder. But if they are keen to go I would say you need to consider what the city is like, who the manager is and also how are you going to get paid. They are the big things to consider."

And as always is the case for footballers there is little margin for error.


Making The Right Move



Rostyn Griffiths


Glory and Reds share the spoils in stalemate

Perth Glory



0

Adelaide United



0

Match Details

Perth Glory 0

Adelaide United FC 0

Sunday 22nd December 2013

Referee: Alan Milliner

Crowd: 9,436 @ nib Stadium

Perth Glory: GK Danny VUKOVIC, 2 Jack CLISBY, 6 Cameron EDWARDS (3 Brandon O'NEILL 58'), 7 Jacob BURNS, 8 Ryo NAGAI (11 Adrian ZAHRA 74'), 10 Jamie MACLAREN, 14 Steven McGARRY, 17 Chris HAR-OLD (16 Sidnei SCIOLA MORAES 58'), 23 Michael THWAITE, 24 Mat-thew DAVIES, 25 Riley WOODCOCK

Substitutes not used:

RGK Jack DUNCAN, 22 Ndumba MAKECHE

Yellow Cards: Davies 50', Thwaite 88'

Adelaide United: GK Eugene GALEKOVIC, 4 Jon McKAIN, 5 Osama MALIK, 7JERONIMO (17 Awer MABIL 58'), 8 ISAIAS, 10 Mar-celo CARRUSCA, 11 Bruce DJITE (19 Jake BARKER-DAISH 76'), 13 Steven LUSTICA, 14 Cameron WATSON (9 Sergio CIRIO 54'), 18 Michael ZULLO, 21 Tarek ELRICH -

Substitutes not used:

RGK Paul IZZO, 3 Nigel BOOGAARD

Yellow Cards: Malik 13', Isaias 43', McKain 88', Carrusca 88'

By Peter Simcox in WA

Kenny Lowe began his tenure as Perth Glory coach with a point, after an uninspiring 0-0 draw against Adelaide United at nib Stadium on Sunday.

It had been an unsettled week at the WA club after the sacking of Alistair Edwards, but Lowe was happy with the point, and the performance of his side after the turbulent week. “I’m proud of my players to be truthful. I think for them to show the character and the attitude after what’s gone on. They worked ever so hard and even though the quality may not have been the best, they’ve been top class all week after a very difficult one,” he said. “Obviously the quality of the game may not have been the best. But it’s been an interesting week. They’ve been top class today from an attitude and character perspective.”

United coach Josep Gombau was also happy with the result. “We have a clean sheet for two weeks running,” he said. “We had more possession, we shot more. I’m satisfied with what the players did today.”

Lowe made two changes to the side that lost to Melbourne Victory last week with skipper Jacob Burns returning for Ryan Edwards, who was ill and Cameron Edwards came in for Ndumba Makeche who dropped to the bench. Gombau also made two changes to his side that beat Central Coast Mariners, with Jeronimo coming for the injured Fabio Ferreira, while Cameron Watson came in for Sergio Cirio, who dropped to the bench.

It was an even first half with the Glory having plenty of the ball but the better chances fell to the visitors. Jamie Maclaren did fire over on the quarter hour for the home side, but the first real chance fell to Adelaide on 22 minutes. Marcelo Carrusca skipped away from his marker in the middle of the park, but Danny Vukovic was down

quick to save the Argentine’s long-range shot. The Glory struggled to get behind an Adelaide defence well led by Osama Malik, and their only chances were from long-range. Vukovic was again in the action five minutes before half time, this time the Glory custodian pulled off a brilliant reflex save with his legs to deny Jeronimo Nuemann, but at the break it was 0-0.

The visitors opened the second half as they had finished the first Jeronimo curling shot drifted inches past the post. The introduction of Brazilian winger Sidnei gave the 9,436 crowd a lift, but it was still Adelaide on top. On 70 minutes Bruce Djite found space down the right, his cross picked out Carrusca, but a superb covering tackle from Burns cleared the danger. The Glory then lost Ryo Nagai with an injury, the Japanese player carried off the pitch, to add to the Glory’s already growing injury list.

Sidnei was causing problems down the flanks and he went close to opening the scoring on 77 minutes. Adrian Zahra through ball sent him clear down the right, but his curling shot was poor and straight at Galekovic. Both sides had late chances to win it the best fell to Adelaide substitute Jake Barker-Daish, his low drive was parried by Vukovic but he was quick to react to save the rebound. At the final whistle both sides shared the spoils, and both know they will need to start picking up maximum points, sooner rather than later, to keep in touch of the top six

Adelaide has back to back games at Coopers Stadium over the festive season, starting with the Newcastle Jets on December 29 before Sydney FC on January 3. The Glory on the other hand travels to the Blue Tongue Stadium to take on Central Coast Mariners on New Year’s Eve, before a trip to the Hunters Stadium to take on the in-form Newcastle Jets on January 4.

Steve McGarry (Perth Glory) hurdles over Jeronimo’s (Adelaide United) sliding attempt.


Jacob Burns (Glory) leaves Cameron Watson (Adelaide United) worse for wear.

Match Stats		
16	Tackles	17
6	Total Shots	13
407	Total Passes	458
47.4%	Possession	52.6%
4	Corners	5
2	Offsides	3
11	Fouls committed	12


Man of the Match

Danny Vukovic (Perth Glory)



New Perth Glory coach Kenny Lowe assumes the postion on the sidelines in his new role.



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> Team Wear (custom made/off the shelf)

> Lettering & Numbering

Western Sydney

2

Central Coast

0

Match Details

Western Sydney Wanderers FC 2 (Juric 20', Hersi 33')

Central Coast Mariners FC 0

Pirtek Stadium, Parramatta

Attendance: 15,786

Referee: Strebre DELOVSKI

Central Coast Mariners FC:
12. Liam REDDY (Gk), 2. Daniel MCBREEN (19. Matthew SIMON 77'), 3. Joshua ROSE, 4. Marcel SEIP, 7. John HUTCHINSON (C), 8. Nick MONTGOMERY, 10. Marcos FLORES (9. Michael DUKE 61'), 14. Michael MCGLINCHY, 15. Storm ROUX, 16. Trent SAINSBURY, 21. Mile STERJOVSKI (11. Nick FITZGERALD 30')

Substitutes not used: 1. Justin PASFIELD (Gk), 5. Zachary ANDERSON

Yellow cards: Montgomery, Rose

Red cards: Nil

Western Sydney Wanderers FC: 1. Ante COVIC (Gk), 3. Adam D'APUZZO, 4. Nikolai TOPOR-STANLEY (C), 6. Jerome POLENZ, 8. Mateo POLJAK, 9. Tomi JURIC (7. Labinot HALITI 68'), 12. Tahj MINNIECON (14. Kwabena APPIAH-KUBI 53'), 13. Matthew SPIRANOVIC, 17. Youssouf HERSI, 18. Iacopo LA ROCCA, 21. Shinji ONO (23. Jason TRIFIRO 73')

Substitutes not used: 20. Jerrad TYSON (Gk), 22. Dean HEFFERNAN

Yellow cards: D'Apuzzo, Juric, Poljak

Red cards: Nil

Mariners defeated at Wanderland

By Ben O'Neill

Central Coast Mariners will sit in sixth place on the Hyundai A-League ladder this Christmas after Phil Moss' men suffered a 2-0 defeat to NSW rivals Western Sydney Wanderers at Pirtek Stadium, Parramatta on Monday.

First half goals to Tomi Juric and Youssouf Hersi earned the Red & Black all three competition points in front of a boisterous crowd of 15,786 supporters at the venue often referred to simply as 'Wanderland'. Urged on by their vociferous support, Wanderers started the game brightly with shots from Hersi and Japanese maestro Shinji Ono aimed at the Mariners' goal in the opening minutes of the match.

Michael McGlinchey, who is now confirmed to be heading to J.League outfit Vegalta Sendai on a season long loan from mid-January, bent an effort just wide of Ante Covic's woodwork in the 15th minute following a classy move involving Marcos Flores and Daniel McBreen.

But Western Sydney would take the lead just five minutes after McGlinchey's foray forward through quite brilliant play from Juric. After Iacopo La Rocca's strike took a wicked deflection, Juric leapt and cracked a stunning overhead kick beyond Liam Reddy from six yards to give the Wanderers the advantage.

Keen to restore parity to the contest the Mariners created two good chances to score in the 23rd and 26th minutes respectively. First Josh Rose made a good run forward before seeing his strike deflected away for a corner, before Flores went within a whisker of finding the net. Only desperate, goal line defending by former Socceroo Matthew Spiranovic denied the Argentine ace his first goal for Central Coast from open play.

Wanderers extended their lead in the 33rd minute through the boot of the impressive Hersi. Receiving the ball wide on the right, Ono sent an inch perfect low cross into the box which the Dutch-Ethiopian rocketed into



Tom Juric caps off his return from injury with the opening goal of the match against the Mariners.

the back of the net at the first time of asking.

Juric had a chance to grab his second and Wanderers' third in first half stoppage time, however good keeping from Central Coast custodian Reddy kept the youngster at bay.

The two teams continued to share the opportunities after the interval with Western Sydney's German right back Jerome Polenz coming closest in the early stages of the half. In the 54th minute the former Union Berlin defender latched on to a well weighted cross from the left, only to see his audacious volley fly just wide.

Moss introduced pacey attacker Mitchell Duke into the game with half an hour to play and Duke al-

most had an instant impact on proceedings. Receiving the ball in the box less than a minute after he was subbed in, Duke swivelled before sending a low strike at goal. Covic, however, wouldn't be beaten as he showed cat-like reflexes to claim Duke's attempt.

While the Mariners toiled and stayed committed through to the end, they could not quite manage to fashion many more obvious opportunities to reduce the deficit created by the efforts of Juric and Hersi in the first 45.

Indeed, the final clear-cut chance of the clash fell to Wanderers marksman Labinot Haliti in second half added time, however he saw his low strike from the edge of the area cannon off Reddy's legs.

Despite tasting defeat to Tony Popovic's charges, Central Coast Mariners boss Moss preferred to look on the bright side following the game, noting that his team had performed stronger in the second stanza courtesy of some "honest words" at half time.

"I was very happy with the reaction second half," Moss said. "We had some good honest words at half time, and I thought the boys showed some real character second half."

"(But) the first thing we need to do is improve with the ball and make sure we stop shipping cheap goals."

"We have to tighten up but it's not a structural problem, it's a transitional problem. We're coughing the ball up too cheaply and not getting a chance to get our defensive structure in

place early enough."

Moss was clear that his team needed to maintain its famed spirit leading into the mid-way points of Hyundai A-League season nine.

"We've just got to keep forging forward, keep the belief and stick together, and we will," he said.

	Match Stats	
24	Tackles	20
23	Total Shots	11
323	Total Passes	566
37.5%	Possession	62.5%
9	Corners	6
2	Offsides	1
17	Fouls committed	14

Man of the Match
Youssouf Hersi (Wanderers)



Tom Juric salutes the Red and Black Brigade.



Not quite a Winter Wonderland but the Wanderers share the Christmas cheer all the same.



Heart Line Up

1. Andrew REDMAYNE (GK)

3. Robbie WIELAERT

6. Patrick GERHARDT

7. Iain RAMSAY

8. Massimo MURDOCCA

10. Harry KEWELL (C)

11. Michael MIFSUD

14. Golgol MEBRAHTU

15. David WILLIAMS

16. Aziz BEHICH

17. Jason HOFFMAN

18. David VRANKOVIC

19. Ben GARUCCIO

20. Tando VELAPHI (GK)

21. Stefan MAUK

22. Nick KALMAR

23. Mate DUGANDZIC

25. Andrea MIGLIORINI

(Two to be omitted)

Ins: 21. Stefan MAUK (promoted),

18. David VRANKOVIC (promoted),

19. Ben GARUCCIO (promoted)

Outs: 24. Patrick KISNORBO

(suspended – one match)

Unavailable: 4. Orlando ENGE-

LAAR (Fractured tibia – 5-9

weeks), 13. Jonatan GERMANO

(Calf - 5 weeks)

Melbourne Heart v Wellington Phoenix

Fri Dec 27 AAMI Park 7:30 PM



The Odds	Head-to-Head
Heart 2.35	Played 9
Draw 3.40	Heart 2
Phoenix 3.00	Phoenix 4
	Drawn 3

Strebre Delovski

Radio Broadcast: Full LIVE coverage on 774 ABC Melbourne, ABC Local radio Victoria, Grandstand Digital and Online/Mobile phone app

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #MHTvWEL

Kiss of Death
Heart 3-2 Phoenix



Phoenix Line Up

1. Glen MOSS (gk)

2. Manny MUSCAT

5. Michael BOXALL

7. Leo BERTOS

9. Kenny CUNNINGHAM

10. Stein HUYSEGEMS

11. Jeremy BROCKIE

12. Tyler BOYD

13. Albert RIERA

15. Jason HICKS

16. Louis FENTON

17. Vince LIA

18. Ben SIGMUND

20. Lewis ITALIANO (GK)

21. Carlos HERNANDEZ

22. Andrew DURANTE (c).

In: 12. Tyler Boyd (promoted)

Out: 8. Paul Ifill (Achilles injury)

Unavailable: 8. Paul Ifill (ruptured

Achilles, 8 to 12 months).



Victory Line Up

1. Nathan COE (GK)

2. Pablo CONTRERAS

3. Adama TRAORE

4. Nick ANSELL

5. Mark MILLIGAN

6. Leigh BROXHAM

7. Gui FINKLER

9. Kosta BARBAROUSES

10. Archie THOMPSON

11. Connor PAIN

13. Andrew NABBOUT

14. James TROISI

15. Mitch NICHOLS

16. Rashid MAHAZI

20. Lawrence THOMAS (GK)

23. Adrian LEIJER

24. Scott GALLOWAY

25. Jason GERIA

(two to be omitted)

Ins: Nil

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: Nil

Melb Victory v West Syd Wanderers

Sat Dec 28 AAMI Park 7:30 PM



The Odds	Head-to-Head
Victory 2.54	Played 4
Draw 3.45	Victory 1
Wanderers 2.80	Wanderers 3
	Drawn 0

Referee: Peter O'Leary

Full LIVE coverage on 774 ABC Melbourne, ABC Local radio Victoria, 936 ABC Hobart and ABC Northern Tasmania Grandstand Digital and Online/Mobile phone app

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #MVCvWSW

Kiss of Death
Victory 1-1 Wanderers

As for his Victory counterpart, Kevin Muscat, he will wait until the last minute to see if Archie Thompson will take any part in the game.

The marquee striker pulled up with a hamstring injury in the warm-up before the Heart again and was replaced by Connor Pain. If Thompson does not make the cut, expect Pain to start again.

It will be clash of two very different styles of football. The Victory is still shaky at the back, but with a penchant for goals, and with the Wanderers picking up form at the moment, expect a draw to settle the scores.



Wanderers Line Up

1. Ante COVIC (gk)

2. Shannon COLE

3. Adam D'APUZZO

4. Nikolai TOPOR-STANLEY

5. Michael BEAUCHAMP (c)

6. Jerome POLENZ

7. Labinot HALITI

8. Mateo POLJAK

10. Aaron MOOY

12. Tahj MINNIECON

13. Matthew SPIRANOVIC

17. Youssef HERSI

18. Iacopo LA ROCCA

19. Mark BRIDGE

20. Jerrad TYSON (gk)

21. Shinji ONO

22. Dean HEFFERNAN

23. Jason TRIFIRO

(Two to be omitted)

Ins: Nil

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: Nil

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Adelaide Utd Line Up

1. Eugene GALEKOVIC (GK) (c)
3. Nigel BOOGAARD
4. Jon MCKAIN
5. Osama MALIK
7. JERONIMO
8. ISAIAS
9. Sergio CIRIO
10. Marcelo CARRUSCA
11. Bruce DJITE
12. Antony GOLEC
13. Steven LUSTICA
14. Cameron WATSON
17. Awer MABIL
18. Michael ZULLO
19. Jake BARKER-DAISH
21. Tarek ELRICH
25. Ryan KITTO
30. John HALL (GK)
(two to be omitted)

Ins: 12. Antony GOLEC (promoted),
14. Cameron WATSON (promoted),
17. Awer MABIL (promoted)

Outs: 22. Fabio FERREIRA (adduc-
tor – 1-2 weeks)

Unavailable: 6. CASSIO (hamstring
tendon – 5 weeks)

Adelaide United v Newcastle Jets

Sun Dec 29 Hindmarsh Stdm 5:00 PM

Jets Hope To Halter Reds Mini Revival

Matt Mays

Adelaide United welcome recent surprise package Newcastle Jets this Sunday in what promises to be an interesting Christmas clash!

The Reds are unbeaten and have kept clean sheets in their last two games, while the Jets are in hot form themselves, winning four out of their last six outings.

United are on a mini resurgence themselves. Since a media spat involving coach Gombau, the club have been stubborn in their approach to the style of play, which has also been backed up by the supporters. Since that grim week a fortnight ago, Adelaide have triumphed with a 4-0 win at Cooper's against the Mariners, plus a hard fought 0-0 draw in Perth, where perhaps they could have won the tie.

With the reds boasting the second worst defence in the league, two successive clean sheets will give the team confidence, especially in doing so without their defensive talisman Nigel Boogard.

But despite the teams mini revival, Gombau maintains a sense of realism.

"I am happy with our style of play and the statistics we are showing are



exciting, but we must build and win at home next week [against Newcastle] to make today a worthwhile point."

The Adelaide boss hopes to welcome back in form pair Ferreira and Cirio for Sundays clash.

"I think Ferreira will be available, all looks good with him. I think Bowels also, but Cassio of course is still out with a long term injury."

The Jet's roll into town with full of confidence after stealing all three points in a magnificent performance in Queensland against table toppers Brisbane Roar last week, not to mention the Jet's win in Adelaide no less than 7 rounds ago.

Mark Birighitti, who deserved his clean sheet at SunCorp, claims the win at Roar has given the team mountains

of confidence going into Sunday's clash and New Year period.

"It was a fantastic result to go to Brisbane, we've got up a good record up there, to get there and get three points on their home patch was definitely a good effort by the boys," Birighitti said.

"It brings a good atmosphere in the group, the boys are buzzing, you can see out there the boys are in a good mood and a good mindset."

However the keeper is well aware of Adelaide's threat and a possible recent change in their style of play.

"They've kind of resorted to a long ball game, the start of the season they liked to try and play out from the back, watching the last couple weeks they've definitely started to play a

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Adelaide 2.30 Draw 3.40 Jets 3.00	Played 26 Adelaide 9 Jets 8 Drawn 9
Referee: Alan Milliner	

Radio: ABC Local Radio South Australia , 1233 ABC Newcastle , ABC Radio Online/Mobile phone app

Join the conversation on
Twitter using the hash-tag
#ADLVNEW

**Kiss of Death
Adelaide 2-2 Jets**

few long balls.

"We've worked on it at training, we're going to have to adapt to it like we do with any other game but I'm confident in the boys that we can go over there and do the job."

The Jets have signed this week A League veteran Nick Ward as a defensive back up for the rest of the A League season.

Ward has made 135 appearances in the A League for Melbourne Victory, Wellington Phoenix and Perth Glory. This will be a very interesting game and one that is very tough to call. Adelaide's mini revival has them in good stead but confidence will make or break them. The Jets will prove healthy opponents for sure. 2-2.



Jets Line Up

1. Mark BIRIGHITTI (gk)
3. Taylor REGAN
4. Kew JALIENS
5. Ben KANTAROVSKI
6. Zenon CARAVELLA
7. Andrew HOOLE
8. Ruben ZADKOVICH (c)
11. Craig GOODWIN
13. Joseph GIBBS
15. Josh BRILLANTE
16. Jacob PEPPER
18. James BROWN
21. Sam GALLAWAY
22. Adam TAGGART
20. Ben KENNEDY (gk)
24. Mitchell OXBORROW.

Ins: 24. Mitchell OXBORROW (promoted), 6. Zenon CARAVELLA (promoted).

Outs: 17. James VIRGILI, 19. Michael BRIDGES.

Unavailable: 9. Emile Heskey (knee), 10. Nathan BURNS (knee).



Mariners Line Up

1. Justin PASFIELD (GK)
2. Daniel MCBREEN
3. Joshua ROSE
4. Marcel SEIP
5. Zachary ANDERSON
6. Brent GRIFFITHS
7. John HUTCHINSON (C)
8. Nick MONTGOMERY
9. Mitchell DUKE
10. Marcos FLORES
11. Nick FITZGERALD
12. Liam REDDY (GK)
14. Michael MCGLINCHY
15. Storm ROUX
16. Trent SAINSBURY
17. Anthony CACERES
19. Matt SIMON
21. Mile STERJOVSKI
(Two to be omitted)

Ins: 5. Zachary ANDERSON (promoted), 11. Nick FITZGERALD (promoted)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 22. Tom SLATER (back – 2 weeks)

Central Coast Mariners v Perth Glory

Tue Dec 31 Bluetongue Stdm 6:00 PM

Unmade in Japan?

Adrian Deans

Something is rotten in the state of Gosford.

Since Arnie (and Andrew Clark) left for Japan, we've seen only one half of decent football in six games (second half versus Sydney), but the dropped points matter less than the performances which have ranged from average to abject.

The Mariners best players in this period have been Liam Reddy, Trent Sainsbury and Storm Roux, which speaks volumes for where the matches are being decided. We're just hanging on but if it weren't for the trio above, things would be much worse.

What has happened to the legendary Mariners defensive shape and fast transition?

Over the last few years (albeit in two different formations in accordance with personnel) the Mariners would choke the life out of enemy attacks and then hold possession – patiently probing for an opening and striking like lightning when it appeared. Devastating inroads would be made out wide by Rose and Bojic and the tricksters like Perez, Amini, Rogic, McGlinchey and Flores could set up opportunities for the strikers (while contribut-



ing quite a few themselves).

It didn't matter that we kept losing players to overseas because everyone coming in knew the system and slotted into place like mass-produced widgets. The team rarely missed a beat, but no-one appears to know the system anymore.

Every time the wide men received the ball in the last few weeks they've checked back inside, allowing the enemy to get back in shape. It's running at the defence in disarray that has reaped so many rewards in the Arnie era, but for some reason the wide players – even speedsters like Duke, continu-

ally check back which allows the other team to press. That means we're passing under pressure and so many are going astray. The Mariners have to get aggressive with their running again in order to force the opposition deeper so there is less pressure on the passes in our third.

The problems must stem from the loss of Arnie and Clark (and chairman Peter Turnbull) and the impending departure of McGlinchey, and probably a couple of others in January.

Perth, of course, have had problems of their own but I sense they're coming out of that since Jacob Burns was confirmed as

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Mariners 1.68 Draw 3.75 Glory 5.00	Played 26 Mariners 16 Glory 4 Drawn 6
Referee: Chris Beath	

Radio Broadcast: 92.5 ABC Central Coast, 702 ABC Sydney, ABC Local Radio NSW, Grandstand Digital, Online/Mobile phone app

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Twitter using the hash-tag
#CCMVPER

**Kiss of Death
Mariners 1-2 Glory**

the real power at the club. I've always rated Burns – I reckon he's the sort of passionate hard man that every club needs, and can certainly play football.

They did reasonably well last weekend against the team that thrashed the Mariners the week before, and despite losing Ryo Nagai with a hamstring injury have unearthed a genuine star in Brazilian Sidnei.

The Mariners traditionally do well in the New Years Eve clash against the Glory, but on current form I can't tip them.

Adrian Deans is the author of *Mr Cleansheets and more recently Straight Jacket* – published by High Horse Books and available in all good book stores. www.adriandeans.com



Glory Line Up

1. Daniel VUKOVIC (GK)
2. Jack CLISBY
3. Brandon O'NEILL
4. Ryan EDWARDS
6. Cameron EDWARDS
7. Jacob BURNS
8. Ryo NAGAI
10. Jamie MACLAREN
11. Adrian ZAHRA
14. Steven MCGARRY
16. Sidnei SCIOLA MORAES
17. Chris HAROLD
18. Jack DUNCAN
20. Danny DE SILVA
22. Ndumba MAKECHE
23. Michael THWAITE
24. Matthew DAVIES
25. Riley WOODCOCK
(two to be omitted)

Ins: 11. Adrian ZAHRA, 16. Sidnei SCIOLA MORAES

Outs: -

Unavailable: -




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Final standings for 2013

Country	Pts
1 Spain	1507
2 Germany	1318
3 Argentina	1251
4 Colombia	1200
5 Portugal	1172
6 Uruguay	1132
7 Italy	1120
8 Switzerland	1113
9 Netherlands	1106
10 Brazil	1102
11 Belgium	1098
12 Greece	1055
13 England	1041
14 USA	1019
15 Chile	1014
16 Croatia	971
17 Côte d'Ivoire	918
18 Ukraine	907
19 Bosnia	899
20 France	893
21 Mexico	892
22 Russia	870
23 Ecuador	852
24 Ghana	849
25 Denmark	831
26 Algeria	800
27 Sweden	793
28 Czech Rep	766
29 Slovenia	762
30 Serbia	752
58 Australia	565
90 New Zealand	378

Round 12: ASK THE EXPERTS

THE VERDICT Sydney FC - 4 Roar - 8 - Draw - 3 Heart - 10 Phoenix - 3 Draw - 2 Victory - 9 Wanderers - 1 Draw - 5 Adelaide - 8 Jets - 1 Draw - 6 Mariners - 11 Glory - 2 Draw - 2

Santo Cilauro **29**

Roar
Heart
Victory
Draw
CCM

Last week: 3

Working Dog Productions

George Donikian **25**

Draw
Heart
Victory
Adelaide
Draw

Last week: 2

Media Mogul

George Calombaris **28**

Roar
Phoenix
Victory
Adelaide
Mariners

Last week: 3

No.1 Victory ticket holder

Eddie Krncevic **17**

Draw
Heart
Draw
Draw
Mariners

Last week: 2

Former Socceroo

John Perin **24**

Roar
Heart
Victory
Draw
CCM

Last week: 3

Hall of Fame Socceroo

Andy Harper **23**

Brisbane
Heart
Draw
Adelaide
Mariners

Last week: 3

NSL Champ / Fox Sports

Ross Alatsas **28**

Sydney FC
Heart
Victory
Adelaide
Mariners

Last week: 2

GM Greek Media Group

Jimmy Campbell **24**

Roar
Heart
Victory
Adelaide
Mariners

Last week: 2

Former Socceroo

George Campbell **28**

Sydney
Phoenix
Wanderers
Adelaide
Draw

Last week: 2

Sth Melb & NSL Legend

Jimmy Rooney **18**

Draw
Draw
Victory
Draw
Mariners

Last week: 2

World Cup '74 Socceroo

Roger Sleeman **27**

Roar
Heart
Draw
Adelaide
Mariners

Last week: 2

Reigning Tipping Champ

John Doyle **22**

Roar
Heart
Victory
Adelaide
Perth

Last week: 2

Original Captain Socceroo

Peter Katholos **28**

Sydney
Draw
Victory
Draw
Mariners

Last week: 2

Former Socceroo

Steve Blair **24**

Roar
Phoenix
Draw
Newcastle
Mariners

Last week: 1

Former Socceroo

Kiss Of Death **27**

Sydney
Heart
Draw
Draw
Glory

Last week: 3

GW Contributors

Top Opta Facts

Round 12

Melbourne Heart
v
Wellington Phoenix

Melbourne Heart are without a win in five A-League matches against Wellington Phoenix (D2 L3).

Wellington Phoenix have never claimed an away victory at Melbourne Heart in league competition (D2 L2).

Wellington Phoenix' Jeremy Brockie has scored three goals in his last two appearances against Melbourne Heart in the A-League.

Melbourne Heart have won just four points in their last 16 A-League games (D4 L12).

Heart have managed to keep only one clean sheet in their last 18 A-League matches.

Wellington's 1-0 win over Sydney in their last match ended a run of 11 A-League games without a victory (L7 D4).

Melbourne Heart have averaged the lowest possession figure in the Premier League this season (42%).

No player has more A-League assists than Carlos Hernandez this season (4), while only Thomas Broich (36) has created more goal-scoring chances (31) than he has.

Adelaide United
v
Newcastle Jets

Adelaide United have one win in eight A-League fixtures against Newcastle Jets (D4 L3).

Newcastle Jets are unbeaten in four league visits to Adelaide United (W1 D3).

Adelaide's Nigel Boogaard was sent off in the previous match involving these teams.

Adelaide United have won just one of their last 10 A-League matches (D4 L5).

Newcastle have won three of their last four A-League away matches

(W3 L1) – this after winning just one of their previous 13 on the road.

Adelaide United's A-League games have seen 33 goals scored this season – more than any other club.

Adelaide have been given three red cards this season; more than any other A-League team.

Newcastle have committed more fouls (180) than any other A-League side this season.

Ben Kantarovski has made the most interceptions in the A-League this season (38).

Melbourne Victory
v
Wanderers

Melbourne Victory have lost three successive games against Western Sydney Wanderers in the A League.

Western Sydney Wanderers won in their only previous away trip to Melbourne Victory (February 2013, 2-1).

Shinji Ono (Western Sydney Wanderers) has scored three goals in his last three league appearances against Melbourne Victory.

Victory have won four of their last five home games at home in the A-League (L1).

Western Sydney Wanderers have kept six clean sheets in their last nine A-League matches.

In a A-League low, matches involving the Western Sydney Wanderers have seen just 20 goals scored this season.

The Wanderers have kept a league-high six clean sheets and have faced the fewest shots on target (36).

Nikolai Topor-Stanley has blocked more opposition shots than any other player in the A-League this season (14).

Top of the Pops

Assists

1 Carlos Hernandez (Phoenix)	4
2 Mitch Nichols (Victory)	4
3 Thomas Broic (Roar)	3
4 Sidnei (Perth Glory)	3
5 Ivan Franjic (Brisbane Roar)	3
5 Matt McKay (Brisbane Roar)	3

Passes

1 Thomas Broich(Roar)	510
2 Luke Brattan (Roar)	454
3 James Troisi (Victory)	426
4 Matt McKay (Roar)	395
5 Vince Lia (Phoenix)	390
6 Carlos Hernandez (Phoenix)	380

CC Mariners
v
Perth Glory

Adelaide United have one win in eight A-League fixtures against Newcastle Jets (D4 L3).

Newcastle Jets are unbeaten in four league visits to Adelaide United

(W1 D3).

Adelaide's Nigel Boogaard was sent off in the previous match involving these teams.

Adelaide United have won just one of their last 10 A-League matches (D4 L5).

Newcastle have won three of their last four A-League away matches (W3 L1) – this after winning just one of their previous 13 on the road.

Adelaide United's A-League games have seen 33 goals scored this season – more than any other club.

Adelaide have been given three red cards this season; more than any other A-League team.

Newcastle have committed more fouls (180) than any other A-League side this season.

Ben Kantarovski has made the most interceptions in the A-League this season (38).



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GOAL!
WEEKLY

MITCH NICHOLS

MELBOURNE VICTORY FC



Photo: ANITA MILAS

MELBOURNE
HEART



MICHAEL MIFSUD

MELBOURNE HEART FC

Photo: LIVE PIXEL

GOAL!
WEEKLY



PoL's Football Funnies



Boo's World

Mark Boric

Will Sarah Ho be appointed as an assistant referee at any Perth Glory games soon?

Newly appointed caretaker coach Kenny Lowe was suspended for two weeks after a Football West State League Under 18's game in which he told a female assistant referee "to get back in the kitchen". The second game was not served as he took his place on the Glory bench after his midweek appointment. Like the case of Melbourne Heart players and coach John Aloisi being allowed to use pre-season friendlies to serve suspensions, it seems disciplinary punishment is not taken too seriously in Australia's top tier. Considering Heidelberg United were deducted points in the VPL a couple of years ago when coach George Katsakis made a similar remark, it's both a slap in the face to abused officials and the lower league clubs on whom the rules are much more stringently applied.

Clive Palmer's belt. Luis Suarez's accountant. The slaves building World Cup stadiums. All under the pump, but not as much as beleaguered Heart boss John Aloisi. Mark Bosnich doesn't know him. He maintains he believes he is the man to turn the Heart around, but he is becoming increasingly alone in having that faith.



Tommy Juric with his many legion of Wanderers fans.

NSL nostalgia was in full force last week as the Central Coast Mariners hosted Wellington Phoenix in a rescheduled fixture at North Sydney Oval. The ground was the home of Northern Spirit, the acceptable Anglo face of the NSL, and fans wearing Spirit shirts sung Spirit chants in a celebration of the return of football to the famous oval. It left some Mariners fans concerned that ever-complaining owner Mike Charlesworth would look to move more games away from their funny three-sided ground.

Of all the gin joints in all the towns in the world, Bayern Munich

had walk into Raja Casablanca's to claim the Club World Cup. It made it five trophies for the year for the Bavarian giants, with the builders and cabinetmakers called in to extend the trophy room.

Is Tomi Juric the new new new new Viduka, or is he the new new new new new Viduka? I've lost count how many have been given that label. We all know how many have proved worthy. Good luck to the Wanderers striker, he may well justify some of the hype.

New Socceroos coach Ange Postecoglou was very generous with his time for fans at the Melbourne

Derby on Saturday night. I'm not sure how many flocked around his predecessors (I'm guessing Pim Verbeek and Holger Osieck would have been wary of people brandishing rotten fruit) and how they handled it, but the Ange put in a good stint having a word with supporters and posing for photographs, his missus even taking on camera duties when selfies proved problematic. It was good to see.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all readers, even the Arsenal fans.

TWEETS OF THE WEEK



Compiled by Roy Skillen

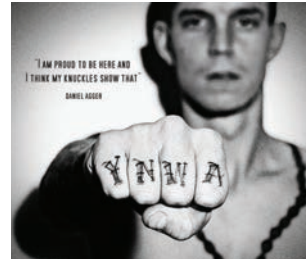
It's Christmas and it seems that Santa has been spending a lot of time in Liverpool being wined, dined, bribed and threatened with a gang little Irish leprechauns by reds boss, Brendan Rodgers. The famous club perched on top of the EPL ladder at Christmas for the first time since 2008 and the funny thing is no-one really knows how it happened. Maybe it has something to do with the size Sakho's hands.

Steven Gerrard@Gerrard8Fan-
Page
13 Dec
How big is his hand?!! pic.twitter.com/lIgHyeoECt



Or does the signing of a contract big enough to fund third world countries by star striker, Luis Suarez, signal a newfound passion Anfield. Just ask defender Daniel Agger.

MostarLFC@MostarLFC
12 Dec
Happy Birthday to our Vice Captain who turned 29 today. This is what Dagger said once... pic.twitter.com/t0w6Z9CvNi



No matter the reason we really do have ask, what exactly does this surprising turn of events mean for the rest of us?

TheWorldScout@AussieSoccer
8s
Liverpool top of the league at Christmas WHAT DA FARQ? Surely this will effect the space time continuum and we will all die. #EPL

Being top at Christmas is a great achievement but it doesn't necessarily mean that they are going to last the pace. Up coming away games against Manchester City and Chelsea will surely go a long way to deciding if they can. But if the wheels do fall off there is a certain special one who can help them on their way down.

Jose Mourinho@Special1TV
14m
Poor Santa. Many men asking

for a Premier League title. I'm hoping for a stepladder to help Brendan down from dizzy heights : #NotOneNil

Of course it is not only Liverpool fans who will be happy tucking in to their Christmas turkey this year.

Mick - Victory Fan@MVictoryFan
I feel like this afternoon all I want to do is chill on the couch with a whiskey, a cigar and a bloodhound at my feet.

And Neymar bought himself a stupid hat.



barcastuff@barcastuff
12 Dec
Picture: Neymar giving interview after the game pic.twitter.com/IE92ZK6dU0 [via @barzaboy]

Oh and what a name for a pub.

Rakesh Mistry@RaksMistry
11 Dec
Fancy a drink here anyone ? pic.twitter.com/YoPtGhasFG



But the real present to all of us this festive season is the game it's self. It crosses borders, breaks down barriers and gives people from Manchester a reason live.



Football Quotes@FootballQuote
7 Dec
Great words from Nelson Mandela pic.twitter.com/nHS5xZ358v



"Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair."
- Nelson Mandela

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Front Row: Stephen Gustus, Michele Giotta, Joaquin Jiminez, Mohamed Alghorabi

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Triumph, turmoil and turning points: A year to remember for our Socceroos

It has certainly been a rollercoaster past 12 months for our senior national men's team. Our Socceroos had entered 2013 with much work to be done to ensure qualification for its third successive World Cup finals participation.

Having already travelled to all of the Socceroos WC qualifiers and witnessed an amazing come from behind performance over Iraq at Doha in the previous October, there was good reason to feel quietly confident that a positive turnaround point had been reached. However, the 'ides of March' provided another dramatic wake up call.

On a balmy night at Stadium Australia in Sydney, the expectations of most were for a home win to be comfortably accomplished. Holger Osieck surprised many with two or three of the starting line up selections, and a disjointed performance allowed Oman to grow in confidence. Going behind 0-2 just after half time reflected the state of play.

Only a true grit, backs to the wall Aussie fight back led by inspirational Timmy Cahill salvaged an incredibly valuable point. Post-game rumblings about Osieck's coaching competency increased with at least a few media critics already calling for his position to be reviewed. Even comments by the FFA CEO did little to dampen such speculation.

Fast forward to early June and many hundreds of travelling fans of the Socceroos converged on Saitama to see a vastly improved performance. Only a late penalty equaliser snatched an unlikely victory from our grasp in front of a 62,000 sell out crowd.

Buoyed by this result, Australia

returned to home soil at Docklands Arena in Melbourne to produce a comprehensive 4-0 win over the hapless Jordanians.

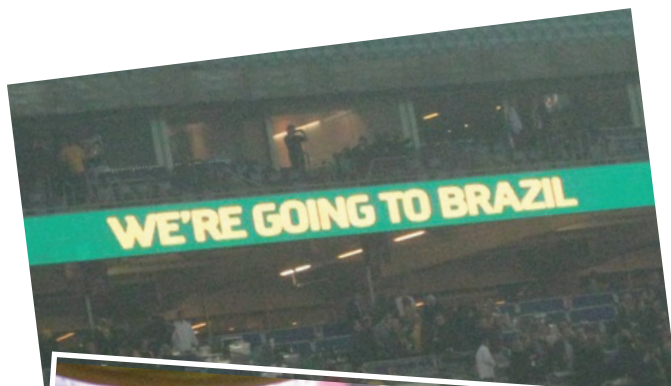
And so as if almost written like a fine script, the stage was set for history to be once again made for Australian WC qualification in front of a packed stadium in Sydney. Despite dominating the game, deep into the second half tensions in the Terrace Australis active fans section reached high anxiety levels.

It was Holger's tactical substitutions that changed the outcome. Finally, the tiring Iraqi defence was fully opened up and a sublime cross from Marco Bresciano allowed an unmarked Josh Kennedy to head home. We held on to secure victory with an immense outpouring of elation, relief, tears of joy and pride across the squad, staff, officials, 80,000 fans packed into the stadium and millions watching the live broadcast.

The ongoing celebrations next day at Circular Quay included fans mobbing a jubilant and proud head coach. Right then, there was little or no portent of the crisis that was to engulf the national team within only four months.

In July, less than ideal timing led to a second string Socceroos squad being at the EAFF finals. Although only one draw from three games was achieved, our participation revealed the great potential of Tommy Juric, Aaron Mooy and Mitchell Duke.

For September, the opportunity to play Brasil at a venue city for the 2014 WC seemed by almost all to be a good part of any build up and preparation for the world's biggest sporting event. However, virtually



nobody expected a 6-0 demolition by the hosts, and we were somewhat fortunate it was not by a lot more. The failure to hold possession was perhaps the greatest inadequacy of our national team's performance.

By now, calls for FFA to sack Osieck were growing and although still resisting it responded by appointing an expert review panel to look at the national team's longer term future.

October 11, and another 6-0 defeat, this time at the hands of France at the Parc de Princes in Paris, and inspired by Franck Ribéry. Post game at the team hotel and David Gallop informed Holger Osieck that his time was up. Assistant Aurelio Vidmar took over the reins temporarily and five days later in London the Socceroos comfortably beat Canada 3-0 to salvage some pride.

The following weeks in many ways showed how far football has advanced across Australia with incredibly robust and healthy debate about whom should our next coach be? Convinced that it was indeed time based upon merit for a home grown appointment, FFA leadership confirmed it was to be Ange Postecoglou. National Technical Director Han Berger as a key advisor had been convinced by Ange's successes at the Roar and the football philosophy that underpinned his approach to coaching.

In attending a training session before the subsequent game in Sydney versus Costa Rica, it was clear that a different and refreshed vibe was already permeating the national team camp. This was in turn reflected by a convincing performance right across the park to

comfortably overcome a team ranked no 31 in the world.

We close 2013 with every reason for confidence that the Socceroos' preparation for Brasil 2014 has turned the corner. Our prospects have also lifted in getting ready for the Asian Cup in January 2015, a major tournament that we can win for the first time. Also solid foundations must be laid for squad regeneration and football development towards Russia 2018 and well beyond.

It is with a touch of sadness that the contributions of former coach Holger Osieck are reflected upon. Despite his short comings, he did deliver and steer us to World Cup qualification and this achievement should be celebrated.

As for our support for the Socceroos, this must continue to be unconditional. We must rejuvenate the active supporters' culture, whether through the Terrace Australis initiative or an evolution of this entity. Country comes before club, and it is hoped that we can work together to one day achieve active support that rivals the biggest and best in Asia and beyond.

In the meantime, we should have no reason to feel intimidated by the prospect of facing three of the best teams in the world at Brasil 2014. What an amazing opportunity to experience the ultimate of all WCs, and perhaps cheering on Australia to some unexpected results! With feet on the ground, we can still choose to dream big and help to create or shape our own destiny in football.

Comments and feedback welcomed via Twitter @PabloFootball





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John Aloisi's tenure as Melbourne Heart Head Coach is seemingly up after his side's 3-1 loss to city rivals Melbourne Victory on Saturday night.

The defeat stretches Heart's winless streak to 16 games, a feat only surpassed by the awful New Zealand Knights in Season 1 and Ron Smith's disastrous spell in charge of Perth Glory.

The majority of club supporters are fed up and crying out for change while the usually sympathetic football media has started to question the former Socceroos' coaching credentials. Despite this large-scale scrutiny, the club board has yet to make a decision on Aloisi's future in the wake of Saturday night's derby defeat seemingly meaning that he is safe for yet another week.

Heart's next game is a home clash on Friday night against the second from bottom Phoenix and a defeat there would almost certainly spell the end for Aloisi. However would a victory against a misfiring Wellington change much? The Heart is twelve points off sixth place and faces an uphill task of making the finals. The club's small but loyal fan base demands success but it is hard to imagine that success coming from JA's turbulent time in charge despite the constant assurances made by CEO Scott Munn. Furthermore Munn and Football Operations Manager John Didulica's positions at the struggling franchise must also be called into question due to their role in the premature appointment of Aloisi and the club's lack of progress on and off the field since their formation in 2009.

The Red and Whites came into the A-League with somewhat of a disadvantage considering the success of cross town rivals Melbourne Victory had managed in the first five seasons of the A-League winning two Championships, making three grand finals and breaking through records left, right and centre. The Victory was seen as a model of success but those behind the formation of the Heart were convinced that there was a large market in-side Melbourne which could sustain a second Melbourne side. The club marketed itself as the club for 'football purists' by playing more attractive football than the Victory.

To do this, the Heart hired Dutch legend and Marco Van Basten's former assistant with the Dutch national team John van't Schip as Head Coach whilst also attracting one of Australia's most promising young coaches in Ante Milicic as assistant along with former Manchester United and Denmark midfielder Jesper Olsen who resides in Melbourne.

An exciting and experienced squad was assembled which included Socceroos legends Aloisi and Josip Skoko, experienced A-League veterans Clint Bolton, Matt Thompson, Simon Colosimo and Dean Heffernan, returning Socceroo Michael Beauchamp, Dutch veteran Gerald Sibon and a host of Australia's most exciting young prospects. However inconsistency in both results and performance coupled with van't Schip falling out with several players and poor crowds outside the derby cost the Heart as they finished eight despite many pundits predicting a debut finals appearance for the new boys.

The second season was an improvement from the first both on and off the field as the side made the finals with an exciting team filled with young talent that included the likes of Marrone, Good, Hamill, Behich, Dugandzic and Babalj whilst crowd numbers rose slightly. The season was characterised by a greater emphasis on youth at the Heart as

Heart's BIG decision

By Damir Kulas

John Aloisi's Heart Record

Melbourne Heart Youth 23 October 2011-4 March 2012	G W D L Win % 18 7 5 6 38.89
Melbourne Heart 8 May 2012-Present	G W D L Win % 32 8 5 19 25.00
Total	G W D L Win % 50 15 10 25 30.00

the youth side ventured into their first season in the National Youth League where the recently retired Aloisi would assume the position of coach assisted by the emerging and highly recommended Arthur Pappas.

Results were mixed as the Heart started off well winning six of their first eight including an opening 2-0 victory over the Blues of Melbourne. However once Pappas departed mid season to rejoin his former AIS mentor Gary van Egmond at the Newcastle Jets, the youth teams results and performances dropped off as they went on to lose six games in a row and won just two more after that bright start.

Over at the senior side, van't Schip announced that he would be leaving the club at season's end to be closer with his family in Europe. A successor was needed and it seemed that the club were to decide between the experienced and successful Ange Postecoglou who was rumoured to be leaving the Brisbane Roar or van't Schip's promising assistant Milicic. But it soon became clear that the Heart weren't going to pursue the former Young Socceroos coach who was also being head hunted by Victory and thus decided to turn to the inexperienced Aloisi.

Ante Milicic's two seasons as an assistant to van't Schip coupled with his experience working with the Young Socceroos set up at an Under 20 World Cup and State League success with Sydney United made him an obvious choice to assume the position. Aloisi on the other hand had one season of experience in the National Youth League and had just started pursuing his coaching badges. Aloisi wanted Milicic as an assistant to him where as Milicic demanded Munn and the Club allow him to recruit Roar deputy Rado Vidosic as an assistant and departing Victory playmaker Carlos Hernandez (a type of player that the Heart have lacked and needed since their inception) to ensure success on the field. Although Milicic was demanding more than Aloisi, it must be said that these demands were reasonable and realistic if the Heart had decided to go after Milicic's requests.

Scott Munn and the board decided to go with Aloisi as their new head coach with Milicic leaving soon after to join Tony Popovic at the Wanderers where he has impressed working alongside his old teammate. The appointment of Aloisi to

the position of manager certainly raised a few eyebrows and left many wondering whether the club made the decision on purely business and marketing interests considering Aloisi's high media profile as opposed to Milicic's lack of prominence.

Nonetheless Aloisi took over whilst many of the clubs young emerging talent left the club for overseas ventures. Curtis Good joined Newcastle in the Premier League, Eli Babalj joined Serbian giants Red Star Belgrade, Brendan Hamill joined K-League powerhouse Seongnam whilst Michael Marrone and Aziz Behich would depart the club half way through Aloisi's first season to China and Turkey respectively.

Aloisi's first season in charge was a frustrating one as the inconsistent Heart was spared the wooden spoon on goal difference. Despite beating

the success stories at the club which included Vince Grella's short stay with the side which was cruelly ended by yet another injury setback for the Former Socceroos.

The new season promised much for the stuttering Heart with several of the clubs foundation players seemingly in decline not being offered new contracts. Bolton, Colosimo, Thompson and the fragile Fred were all released. A-League experience was added with the signings of Iain Ramsay from Adelaide and Massimo Murodca from Brisbane, whilst veteran Dutch defender Rob Wielart was also signed. Aziz Behich returned on loan from a rather uneventful spell in Turkey with Bursaspor further bolstering their stocks.

However the Heart still seemed to have an inferior squad to the rest of the competition while Munn was

However as we all know Heart's season has not gone to plan after the first eleven rounds of the season. Engelaar's lengthy injury lay off has made it hard for Aloisi as has Kewell's struggles with injuries. Mifsud's misfiring in front of goal has also not helped while Kisorbo, although solid, has cost Heart on more than a few occasions this season with his recklessness. Yes, Aloisi has been unlucky with fortune often not favouring him, but unlucky in every one of their past sixteen games?

the highly fancied Postecoglou coached Victory in his first game in charge, the team went onto win two of their next twelve and despite a brief rise up the ladder midway through the season lost all five of their last games. Added to this was a shocking away record in which the Red and Whites lost all their away games outside Melbourne bar an uninspiring 0-0 draw against a struggling Sydney in round nine.

Despite all the doom and gloom, there still were some positives. Richard Garica had proved to be an astute signing as was little known defender Patrick Gerhardt. David Williams had displayed some of the form that had made him one of the country's best talents while youngsters Jeremy Walker and David Vrankovic should promising signs for the future after the departures of Behich and Marrone in January.

However the season was a failure for the club with the failures out-

weighing the success stories at the club which included Vince Grella's short stay with the side which was cruelly ended by yet another injury setback for the Former Socceroos. The new season promised much for the stuttering Heart with several of the clubs foundation players seemingly in decline not being offered new contracts. Bolton, Colosimo, Thompson and the fragile Fred were all released. A-League experience was added with the signings of Iain Ramsay from Adelaide and Massimo Murodca from Brisbane, whilst veteran Dutch defender Rob Wielart was also signed. Aziz Behich returned on loan from a rather uneventful spell in Turkey with Bursaspor further bolstering their stocks.

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His team selections have not helped him either on more than a few occasions. One must ask whether it would have been appropriate to drop goalkeeper Andrew Redmayne for the derby given he was at fault for both goals the week prior and with reserve keeper Tando Velaphi surely having a point to prove against the club who released him. Aloisi also failed to utilise his maximum amount of substitutions as he didn't go to the bench after the sixty-fifth minute when he had both Andrea Miglierini and Ramsay at his disposal when it was clear that many of his player's particularly right back Jason Hoffman were a spent force.

Furthermore his constant use of Hoffman, whether it be in mid-field or at right-back continues to bemuse many onlookers who feel the player isn't up to A-League standard and should not have been granted a contract extension. The highly rated Vrankovic hasn't featured all season at the expense of slower, thirty plus defenders. Gerhardt seems down on confidence, as does Ramsay and GolGol Mebrahtu while Mate Dugandzic seems to have been hampered by his long-term injury sustained last season and is a shadow of the player he was when he first joined the club under van't Schip. Williams is plagued by inconsistency; Wielart and Behich suffer from lapses in concentration while Murodca needs to contribute more in attack.

Even in defeat, Aloisi still remains defiant about his position, his player's performances and often looks for other scapegoats. While usually acknowledging that his side have not had luck on their side, he constantly criticises referees for his side's defeats. A case in point was Saturday where he criticised Ben Williams for sending off Kisorbo in the twentieth minute despite replays showing that the veteran centre-back went studs up into Connor Pain and was deservedly sent off.

Aloisi must be prepared to shoulder the blame for his team's poor performances instead of blaming misfortunate or referees. He also must demand more from his players for not doing enough instead of constantly backing them; Mike Mulvey at Brisbane does this and it does neither him nor the team any harm. Although it must be also be said that is perhaps one of the reasons why Aloisi still has the backing of the players.

Finally it is important that we remember John's outstanding contribution to the game in this country. Many of us would not have had the nerve to step up and take that decisive penalty on that magical November evening in 2005. But Aloisi's career was more than just that. He was the first Australian to play in all three of Europe's top leagues, his goal against Japan in 2006 and scoring four times for the struggling Roos in Germany in the 2005 Confederations Cup where he helped restore some pride to an ailing side. Added to this was scoring in a Spanish Cup Final while his goals were a catalyst in helping Sydney FC capture their second Championship in 2010 not to mention his opening goal against the Victory for the Heart in the first ever derby between the two sides.

When assessing Aloisi the coach we must try and take emotion and his decorated career out of the equation and judge him on the Heart's performances in the 18 months or so he has been in charge. In that period the Heart have won only eight out of the thirty eight competitive fixtures they have played and lost a dismal twenty three games.

When assessing Heart as a club it is often hard to attempt to analyse them without analysing Victory. The Blue and Whites had five years on their local rivals, twenty thousand plus members, trophy room success and an undisputed reputation as the country's biggest and best football club. Heart are now in their fourth season and have only made the finals once with it being unlikely to see them making them this year alas a miraculous turn around in form and fortune. The Blue side of Melbourne on the other hand have made the finals twice and if they continue like they've started off the season, they should finish in the top four.

Victory acted fast when they needed to and axed Mehmet Durakovic for far less after making an error in appointing him after dismissing Ernie Merrick. Neither were they frightened to dump Jim Magilton and chase after Postecoglou when they believed this was the best decision. Heart need to do the same with Aloisi if they wish to be successful on and off the field as their counterparts in Melbourne. Big decisions need to be made; heads need to roll starting with JA, some players and maybe finishing with Munn as a sixteen game winless streak is unacceptable in any code let alone the often uncompromising nature of the round ball game.

In football and life, time is everything and time certainly is not with the Heart. If they are content with Aloisi and struggling at the wrong end of the table then they should keep Aloisi, but it's only a matter of time before the supporters start acting with their feet and pockets and stop attending games. Yes, the club has never paid out anyone's contract and may not be in the best financial position to do so, but desperate times call for desperate measures. It's hard to imagine a win on Friday night against the Phoenix changing much at the Heart.

Change is needed not for the sake of change but because in the grand scheme of things it is warranted and needed if the Melbourne Heart wish to avoid the same fate as the Knights, Fury and Gold Coast United have endured before.



English Premier League



Top Guns Fail To Fire

Jose Mourinho did promise that he would go back to his “basics”, following his side’s 2-1 defeat to Sunderland in the Capitol One Cup.

“We are going in one direction and the right direction, but it is quite frustrating. Football is about getting results and it’s quite frustrating as we may have to take a step back in order to be more consistent at the back,” said the Portuguese.

“It’s something I don’t want to do, to play more counter-attacking, but I’m giving it serious thought. If I want to win 1-0 I think I can as I think it is one of the easiest things in football. It is not so difficult, as you don’t give players the chance to express themselves.”

So it can be no surprise that for the Christmas Eve game against Arsenal that Mourinho went back to his counter-attacking game style.

Switching to a 4-3-3, Mourinho’s Chelsea looked to stifle the Gunners midfield and play on the break as often as it could.

It proved to be a success, despite the 0-0 score line. Chelsea had the better chances, despite Arsenal dominating possession. In fact, the Blues were unlucky as Frank Lampard’s first half volley smashed off the bar; in perhaps some of the best plays in the game.

Whether this is enough to please Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich, who wants attacking football,



Liverpool top the league at Christmas. The last 4 teams to top the league at Christmas have gone on to be crowned champions. The last team to be top at Christmas and not go on to win..... Liverpool in 2009!

is another matter for discussion. The fact is that Mourinho would not normally play so defensive against lesser teams, so the Russian owner can take heart from that knowledge.

Mourinho though was content with the point earned.

“Happy with the result? Not unhappy, I would say,” he said.

“We came to win, we wanted to win and it was very important not to lose because, if we did, we’d be five points behind the leader. Now we are two points behind both leaders, a completely different picture. So, I would say, we tried to win but we are not unhappy with a point.”

Of course, Arsenal had its own half chances, with a Theo Walcott penalty being dismissed in the first half, following a heinous tackle by Obi Mikel that left Mikel Arteta with a swollen ankle.

“I haven’t seen the challenge from Mikel John Obi again but my ankle is swollen big time,” said Arteta. “He broke my shin-pad and he was late. The referee had to make the decision and he decided it wasn’t a red card. Theo Walcott is saying that it was also 100% a penalty, so we were unlucky tonight.”

Mourinho’s Arsenal counterpart Arsene Wenger believed that Chelsea came to “park the bus”.

“We should have won it. They came here to defend and catch us on the break. We were a bit edgy at the start but we took control in the second half and should have won it,” Wenger said.

“It was a game of very few chances and we couldn’t take ours. If you cannot win the game, don’t lose it.” The draw sees Arsenal jump to second place with Liverpool now the new league leaders over Christmas. While Chelsea move up to fourth place and remain two points off first.


EPL Preview

The games are coming thick and fast in this heavy festive fixture list. It starts with the annually Boxing Day games continuing the festivities.

Manchester United will travel to face Hull City, looking to make it four wins on the bounce. The 3-1 over West Ham United last weekend, saw the Red Devils slowly pick up the pieces under David Moyes’ terrible start to his United tenure.

ENGLAND

EPL



Last5games
Most recent first

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Liverpool	17	11	3	3	42	19	+23	36	W W W W L
2 Arsenal	17	11	3	3	33	17	+16	36	D L D W W
3 Manchester City	17	11	2	4	51	20	+31	35	W W D W W
4 Chelsea	17	10	4	3	32	18	+14	34	D W L W W
5 Everton	17	9	7	1	29	16	+13	34	W W D W W
6 Newcastle United	17	9	3	5	24	22	+2	30	W D W L W
7 Tottenham Hotspur	17	9	3	5	18	23	-5	30	W L W W D
8 Manchester United	17	8	4	5	28	20	+8	28	W W L L D
9 Southampton	17	6	6	5	22	18	+4	24	L D D L L
10 Stoke City	17	5	6	6	17	21	-4	21	W D W D L
11 Swansea City	17	5	5	7	23	23	+0	20	L D D W L
12 Hull City	17	5	5	7	14	20	-6	20	D D D L W
13 Aston Villa	17	5	4	8	17	23	-6	19	L L L W D
14 Norwich City	17	5	4	8	15	29	-14	19	D D W L W
15 Cardiff City	17	4	5	8	13	25	-12	17	L W L D L
16 West Bromwich ...	17	3	7	7	18	23	-5	16	D L L L L
17 West Ham United	17	3	5	9	14	22	-8	14	L D L L W
18 Crystal Palace	17	4	1	12	11	27	-16	13	L L W W L
19 Fulham	17	4	1	12	17	34	-17	13	L L W L L
20 Sunderland	17	2	4	11	12	30	-18	10	D D L L D

So much so that defender Phil Jones said that the team is slowly understanding what the manager wants.

“It has been a good couple of weeks,” said Jones.

“I think we can all start to feel there is more of an understanding at what the manager wants. The last four games have been an indication we are getting to that stage.

“We are in a good place at the moment. We are playing well. We are passing the ball well.”

Moyes’ counterpart for the clash, Steve Bruce, said that it was always going to take time for United to revive.

“Over the Christmas period, we host the champions and they’ve run into some form which you would expect them to do.”

Highflying Everton will play bottom-placed Sunderland and will be looking to keep up its charge of challenging for a Champions League spot.

Roberto Martinez has done a fantastic job with the Toffees, releasing the shackles to play a much more attacking game, compared to predecessor David Moyes.

However the Spaniard has stated that there is plenty of room for improvement for the team.

“The performances have been full of hard work, a combination of good flair and quality, hard-working and the performance has been very, very good.

“Don’t get me wrong, but we feel we still have a bit to improve and that’s what we’re focusing on. If you speak to the players they’ll tell you they’ve enjoyed the period but we can do better, and that’s what we want to do for the second half of the campaign.”

The Toffees recent form owes much to the impressive performances of Ross Barkley, who has drawn the attention of bigger clubs.

But Martinez has stated that the 20-year-old midfielder is not for sale for any price, even one as big as Real Madrid’s £86m purchase of Gareth Bale.

“Ross is in a moment of his career where first, he knows that he needs to carry on developing and this is the perfect place to do that,”

“Second, he is a mad Evertonian and enjoying every single second. And third, we are in the middle of a

Latest Results	Next Match
Liverpool 3 - 1 Cardiff City	West Ham v WBA
Crystal Palace 0 - 3 Newcastle	Aston Villa v Swansea City
Fulham 2 - 4 Man City	Hull City v Fulham
Man United 3 - 1 West Ham	Man City v Crystal Palace
Stoke City 2 - 1 Aston Villa	Norwich City v Man Utd
Sunderland 0 - 0 Norwich City	Cardiff City v Sunderland
WBA 1 - 1 Hull City	Everton v Southampton
Southampton 2 - 3 Tottenham	Newcastle Utd v Arsenal
Swansea City 1 - 2 Everton	Chelsea v Liverpool
Arsenal 0 - 0 Chelsea	Tottenham v Stoke City

One To Watch This Weekend...

Will Tottenham continue its new start with Tim Sherwood as coach with another win over West Brom? The Baggies are in free-fall at the moment, since Steve Clarke’s firing.

season where we would never, ever consider disrupting what we have got in our squad now.

“It is not the right time for the player or the club to consider anything. Even if we got a Gareth Bale-size valuation we would never even consider it in January.”

While the other big clash of the day, is Manchester City taking on Liverpool at Etihad Stadium. The Sky Blues have now lost a game this season at home and will be looking to continue its hot form after its 4-2 win over Fulham.

Despite the free-flowing football, City midfielder James Milner believes the team should become “more boring” if it wants to recapture the title.

“We’d like to have games that are a bit more boring if we can - maybe a 1-0 or 2-0.

You can’t get anywhere in football without scoring goals, but as a side that’s looking to improve, we can improve at the other end, as a team.”

Follow Andrew on Twitter @_andrewbishara

The Luis Suárez Appreciation Society



Each week, players and teams are over-hyped in the self-affirmed ‘best league in the world’. Pundits and bloggers constantly roll out the ‘world-class’ and ‘unplayable’ tags far too often as they look to drive forward the advertising juggernaut that is the Premier League.

The FIFA Ballon d’Or shortlist tells another story as only five of the 23 man list play in England. Six are based in Spain, seven in Germany and four in the recently rejuvenated French league. ‘I’ve run out of superlatives to describe him’ has been heard a fair few times this season and despite being in severe danger of joining the media-hype that has just been ridiculed, I will happily drive the Barclay’s sponsored band-wagon in support for such over-used terms for one particular player.

Luis Suárez is destroying everyone in his sight, and that’s putting it lightly. Having missed the first seven games due to the well-documented bite on Branislav Ivanovic towards the back end of last season, he is already six strikes ahead of his nearest challenger, scoring a staggering 19 goals already. Perhaps even more remarkable, the Uruguayan alone has more goals than eleven other teams in the Premier League, including Tottenham Hotspur who only have 18 altogether. To put that into perspective,



ative, Suárez has 19 goals in just 13 league appearances, has netted more times than half of the teams in the division and has done so whilst helping Uruguay qualify for next year’s World Cup on the other side of the world. Along with his clear dislike for Norwich City (ten goals in just four games against the Canaries, including three hat-tricks), Liverpool’s number seven has scored or assisted in all but two of the games he has played in so far this season.

But it’s not just the statistics which are in the Liverpool strikers favour. His performances are mesmerising. Think Diego Maradona in his illustrious seven year career with

Napoli where he single-handedly won the Azzuri’s only Serie A titles between 1984 and 1991. The Argentinian was at the height of his career and to this day, splits opinions as he fights it out with Péle in ‘who was the greatest ever’ debates across the world. If Suárez consistently performs like he is now and somehow manages to help Liverpool to their first ever Premier League crown, prepare for the comparisons with the great Argentinian to start pouring in. Maradona did also guide his national side to a World Cup in 1986, but we’ll give Suárez the benefit of the doubt in emulating such an iconic figure.

With a player of such high quality,

it’s hard to squash Liverpool’s title credentials. In all fairness, they were doing just about fine without him throughout August and half of September. Daniel Sturridge supplied the firepower and Simon Mignolet was performing heroics in goal as the red’s won their first three league games 1-0. With Sturridge and Steven Gerrard now out injured during such a crucial Christmas period, Suárez has taken it upon himself to do all their work on the field and more. Manager Brendan Rodgers has given him a free roam, as a player of his ability should, which makes the Uruguayan incredibly hard to pick up, allowing him to be the all-conquering player he currently is.

Whilst he may be carrying a lot of the burden for the red half of Merseyside this season, one thing he is not is selfish and despite having technical ability of the highest calibre, he’s still someone you would have in the trenches with you if a war were to break out. He’s ruthless in achieving success for his team, a point made first apparent in his first high-profile controversial incident in the 2010 World Cup when playing for Uruguay. With the quarter-final game against Ghana held at 1-1 in the last minutes of extra-time, Suárez put his footballing morals on the line (not for the last time) and saved a Dominic Adiyiah goal-bound

header with his hands. The striker was sent-off, Asamoah Gyan’s penalty struck the bar, Suárez celebrated the miss down the tunnel and Uruguay went through to the semi-finals via a penalty shoot-out. Ethically wrong? Perhaps. Ruthless? Absolutely. He would happily take a metaphorical bullet for the sake of the team, the kind of person everyone would want playing in their side.

Despite being on his third renewed contract in as many years, if Liverpool don’t make the Champions League at the very least, Suárez will probably leave. A player that good should be pitting his wits against the elite of Europe, and that doesn’t include the Europa League (sorry Spurs fans). The Premier League has a true gem of world football in its ranks and the longer he’s here, the more we can see him terrorise defenders up and down the country.

In the words of a particular topical seasonal song that seems fitting for any opposition team facing the all-scoring, all-nutmegging, all-destroying Uruguayan: You better watch out, you better not cry, you better not pout I’m telling you why: Luis Suárez is coming to town.



Beckham To Be Coaxed Out Of Retirement To Bolivia?



Latin Wrap

Francis Fields

Bolivian champions Bolívar have confirmed that they are trying to tempt David Beckham out of retirement.

The club’s billionaire owner Marcelo Claure is a friend of the former England captain and is working with him to bring a new MLS franchise to Miami in 2015.

As the former England captain hung up his boots at the end of the 2012/13 campaign - bringing a distinguished career to a close, Beckham has initiated close ties with businessmen in the United States.

Bolívar, though, have expressed an interest in adding the 38-year-old to their ranks for a one-off performance.

As exclusively revealed by MirrorSport last week, Claure is trying to convince Beckham to play in the club’s Copa Libertadores campaign and the telecoms tycoon today admitted in newspaper La Razón that they “are doing everything possible, and David Beckham is a possibility.”

Bolívar have already been drawn in Group seven of South America’s Champions League equivalent, and will play Flamengo of Brazil as well as Mexico’s León and Ecuadorian giants Emelec.

A man who turned out for Manchester United, Real Madrid and LA Galaxy brought the curtain down with French giants Paris St Germain retired from playing at the end of last season, after five months.

His focus has now switched to other areas, with Beckham hoping to take a new MLS franchise to Miami.

Marketing director Salomon Chalan told Globo Esporte: “Yes, that’s true, we want Beckham to play one game for Bolívar.

“Talks are at an early stage between (owner of the company which runs Bolívar) Marcelo Claure and David Beckham, who are friends.

“I don’t know yet if it will be a Libertadores game or a friendly



David Beckham may come out of retirement for the 2014 Copa Libertadores

one, they are talking and it is a complicated subject.”

While Chalan is optimistic regarding the possibility of putting a deal in place, Bolívar president Guido Loayza is less so.

He told La Razon: “Let’s be serious, he hasn’t played for a long time.”

COPA LIBERTADORES DRAW RELEASED

Two weeks ago the draw was held in Asunción, Paraguay, at the offices of CONMEBOL for the 2014 Copa Libertadores. The draw was made for both the first round and the second round of the competition.

This is how the draw panned out for the first round:

- Tie 1:** Sporting Cristal (PER) v Atletico PR (BRA)
- Tie 2:** Deportivo Quito (ECU) v Botafogo (BRA)
- Tie 3:** Universidad de Chile (CHI) v Guarani (PAR)
- Tie 4:** Caracas (VEN) v Argentina 5
- Tie 5:** Morelia (MEX) v Santa Fe (COL)
- Tie 6:** Oriente Petrolero (BOL) v Nacional (URU)

This is how the draw panned out for the second round:

- Group 1:** Vélez Sarsfield (ARG), Bolivia 2, Peru 1, Tie 1.
- Group 2:** Unión Española (CHI), Argentina 3, Independiente del Valle (ECU), Tie 2.
- Group 3:** Cerro Porteño (PAR), O’Higgins (CHI), Deportivo Cali

- (COL), Tie 4.
- Group 4:** Atlético Mineiro (BRA), Nacional (PAR), Zamora (VEN), Tie 5.
- Group 5:** Cruzeiro (BRA), Defensor Sporting (URU), Peru 2, Tie 3.
- Group 6:** Newell’s Old Boys (ARG), Gremio (BRA), Atlético Nacional (COL), Tie 6.
- Group 7:** Bolívar (BOL), Fluminense (BRA), Emelec (EQU), León (MEX).
- Group 8:** Peñarol (URU), Arsenal (ARG), Deportivo Anzoátegui (VEN), Santos Laguna (MEX).

The group that looks the most interesting out of the eight is Group 6, in that it features two clubs that have previously won the competition. Gremio won the competition back in 1983 and 1995. Atlético Nacional won the competition back



Universidad de Chile clinched the final third Chilean spot for the upcoming Copa Libertadores with a play-off win

in 1989. Should Nacional win their first round tie against Oriente Petrolero, they will be another team in Group 5 that have previous won the competition. Nacional won the competition in 1971, 1980, and 1988.

CONCA RETURNS TO BRAZIL

Dario Conca admits he’s happy to return to Fluminense after three years with Guangzhou Evergrande.

The 30 year-old left Flu for China in July 2011, but will be back playing for the Rio de Janeiro-based side next season.

“I’m looking forward to playing again and seeing the friends I left here,” he said, as reported by the media in Guangzhou. “I can’t wait to go on the pitch again wearing the Fluminense shirt.

“I hope to be able to make people happy, but I can’t promise titles. I can only promise to work hard and do the best I can for the team.”

Conca’s time with Guangzhou was very successful. He won the Chinese Super League three times, the 2012 Chinese FA Cup, 2012 Chinese FA Super Cup and the 2013 AFC Champions League.

ARANGUIZ LEAVES U DE CHILE


Charles Aránguiz returned for a final stint with Universidad de Chile and the crowd was right behind him. When the midfielder scored during the first half, the


chanting began which marked his farewell for the club. Aránguiz will be sorely missed by the squad, not only as a protagonist in the midfield, but for his goal-scoring ability. He also looks in contention for national team duty for next year’s FIFA World Cup in Brazil.

Deportes Iquique had no fire in them, with Universidad de Chile looking to attack from the first kick of the ball, forcing a corner in the first minute of play. Ramon Fernández was first on the scoreboard, with the long range effort from Aránguiz leaving the scores at 2-0 eleven minutes into the match. Marco Antonio Figueroa’s men looked well and truly in control. Isaac Díaz put the icing on the cake with two second half goals after replacing Patricio Rubio. The 4-0 scoreline finished with a 5-0 aggregate victory. The extended season saw Díaz finish with eight goals for the season and Aránguiz seven.

The “Príncipe Azul” will move on to a destination still not known, rumours have it that Internacional de Porto Alegre of Brazil are very close to signing him with Udinese having bought Universidad de Chile’s share clearance pass for US\$2 million. The rest of the team will prepare to take part in the Copa Libertadores, facing Guarani in Santiago on January 30 and in Paraguay on February 6.

Sky Blues maintain pole position in NYL





Foxtel National Youth League

There were plenty of goals to round up the last week of Youth League action for 2013, and the best action was found in Tuggerah where Central Coast Mariners and Melbourne Victory played out a seven goal thriller.

The hosts went into the clash desperate for their first win of the campaign and went behind early courtesy of a Jesse Makarounas strike.

However one of their few shining lights this season in Josh Bingham assisted Steve Whyte for an equaliser in the 17th minute, while scoring an impressive long shot to give Mariners the lead.

They extended their lead ten minutes before the break when Brent Griffiths dispatched a rebound off

a free kick.

Victory did not give up however and soon equalised through an Anthony Proia chip and didn’t take long to be back in the lead after the break.

First Dylan Murnane slotted in the equaliser in the 51st minute then Christopher Cristaldo scored the winner six minutes later.

The result meant Central Coast remain rooted to the foot of the table, still four points behind Perth Glory.

Glory have the worst defensive record in the league this season, and it showed no signs of changing in their 4-1 loss to Adelaide United.

Adelaide took the lead in the 25th minute thanks Anthony Golec but the match was then suspended due to an unfortunate broken leg to Aleksandar Jovic.

Anthony Costa then made it 2-0 when play resumed before his own goalkeeper Paul Izzo made a calamitous error which allowed Harry O’Brien to pull a goal back for Perth.

Adelaide remained in charge for the rest of the game however,

and two goals in two minutes for Dion Kirk and Bruce Kamau sealed a comprehensive victory for the young Reds.

They now move level on points with Newcastle Jets, who could only take a point away in Brisbane.

The Jets have been unbeaten since losing to Adelaide in Round 3 and took a 2-0 lead with goals either side of the break from Craig Goodwin and Mitch Cooper.

Brisbane had an ace up their sleeve however, with Brandon Borrello keen to impress senior coach Mike Mulvey following Kwame Yeboah’s transfer to Borussia Mönchengladbach.

Borrello scored a braced after some good lead up work from his teammates, to ensure that Brisbane rescued a point.

Brisbane go into Christmas sixth, and level on points with Western Sydney Wanderers who dispatched a poor Melbourne Heart outfit 3-0 at Epping Stadium.

Alusine Fofanah was the star for Wanderers, as he turned on an impressive display of speed and skill to punish a rather woeful

Heart team.

After Josua Barresi had given Wanderers the lead, Fofanah scored arguably the best goal of the game when he beautifully controlled a lobbed pass and slotted a cool finish past Tando Velaphi.

Heart’s day went from bad to worse when Stipo Andriasevic turned a rebound off a brilliant Velaphi save into his own goal to make it 3-0.

It was a puzzling second half display from the home side, who had their chances to be in the lead at half time, but came out looking short of breath after the break.

Meanwhile, Sydney FC extended their lead at the top of the table with a 3-0 win over the AIS at Cromer Park.

Alec Urosevski opened the scoring for the Sky Blues in the 18th minute before Mitch Mallia and Blake Powell added their names to the score sheet in the second half.

The AIS did put up a good fight though, and were unlucky not to have a consolation when Marc

Results	
Melbourne Heart 0 Western Sydney Wanderers 3 (Barresi 56, Fofanah 68, Andriasevic 74og)	
Central Coast Mariners 3 (Whyte 17, Bingham 25, Griffiths 35) Melbourne Victory 4 (Makarounas 4, Proia 37, Murnane 51, Cristaldo 57)	
Perth Glory 1 (O’Brien 42m) Adelaide United 4 (Golec 25m, Costa 35m, Kirk 73m, Kamau 74m)	
Brisbane Roar 2 (Borrello 57, 61) Newcastle Jets 2 (Goodwin 45+2, Cooper 49)	
Sydney FC 3 (Urosevski 18, Mallia 50, Powell 70p) AIS 0	

Marino struck the post after rounding the keeper.

The Sky Blues will look to continue their hot streak in the New Year when they come up against Perth Glory.

NYL Standings	
	P W D L F A D P
1 Sydney FC	9 8 0 1 27 12 15 24
2 Newcastle Jets	9 5 2 2 22 13 9 17
3 Adelaide United	9 5 2 2 19 14 5 17
4 Melbourne Victory	9 5 1 3 25 16 9 16
5 Wanderers	9 4 1 4 16 14 2 13
6 Brisbane Roar	9 3 4 2 22 23 -1 13
7 AIS	9 3 2 4 20 20 -5 11
8 Melbourne Heart	9 2 2 5 10 19 -9 8
9 Perth Glory	9 2 0 7 16 29 -13 6
10 CC Mariners	9 0 2 7 9 21 -12 2

Next Round	
Saturday, 4 January 2014 Adelaide United v AIS Parra Hills KO 11:30 AM	
Saturday, 4 January 2014 CC Mariners v Melbourne Heart Centre of Excellence, Tuggerah KO 2:30PM	
Sunday, 5 January 2014 Sydney FC v Perth Glory WIN Jubilee Oval, Kogarah KO 11:00AM	
Sunday, 5 January 2014 Melbourne Victory v Brisbane Roar Lakeside Stadium KO 3:00PM	
Sunday, 5 January 2014 Newcastle Jets v Wanderers Wanderers Oval KO 3:00PM	

Adelaide United’s Barbieri still the best - Aloisi

By Shaun Moran

Barbieri still the best - Aloisi
Ross Aloisi may have witnessed his side succumb late on to a Melbourne Victory winner in its last fixture, but believes that its recent performances demonstrate that there is plenty to be encouraged about at Adelaide United.

United, who stifled the home side and last season’s runners up looked as if they would escape with a point from the Victorian capital, up until Lisa De Vanna popped up with the winner in the latter stages of the match.

Despite this, Aloisi’s well marshalled outfit successfully frustrated and thwarted the talented Melbournians for a large portion of the 90 minutes.

This, coupled with its similar formidable showing against Brisbane a week earlier is something that the former United men’s captain believes will hold his team in good stead going into the new year.

“It is disappointing but it’s the fitness of our girls as well and we’ve known that since day one,” he explained.

“It’s tough against a side like the Melbourne Victory who has to be the strongest side we’ve played against to date - who are strong all over the park and have the likes of Fishlock, De Vanna and Catley and everything else.

“We played in the heat against Brisbane and it did affect the girls, but in saying that, they are a great side.”

The 40-year-old lauded the efforts of utilities Alexandra Gummer and Jenna McCormick, who have moulded their play and demonstrated their versatility to both step up into defensive positions, which is a far cry from their regular roles as forwards.

“Alex [Alexandra] Gummer’s a



Gulcan Koca is about to join the Victory celebrations after Lisa De Vanna’s late winner. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

striker who’s basically a number nine and Jenna McCormick who in our National Premier League plays as a number 10,” he continued.

“And they played in the centre of defence all season and they’ve been very very good. And to only concede one goal I thought was a great effort from the whole team.”

A major coup for the South Australian has been the acquisition of Melbourne born and former Matilda shot stopper, Melissa Barbieri, who Aloisi insists is still amongst the finest goalkeepers plying their trade in the country.

“It’s massive, because she talks nonstop, whereas during the week she can’t speak,” he said.

“Her experience is second to none

in the country. I still believe that she’s possibly the number one goalkeeper, but that’s just my opinion.

“She’s massive for our side, communicates nonstop and she’s a good goalkeeper.”

Adelaide now returns home to face another stern test against the undefeated Canberra on January 5.

In other W-league matches, Brisbane and Sydney FC played out a battling 1-1 draw at in their Westfield W-League clash at Goodwin Park on Sunday afternoon.

In a contest that contained plenty of tough challenges as well as some thrilling attacking play, the Sky Blues were the stronger team in the opening stanza, while a more-

organised Brisbane largely dominated play in the second half.

Renee Rollason scored early for Sydney FC before Hayley Raso equalised in the second half for the Roar.

Follow Shaun on Twitter @MoranShaun

Standings										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	P		
1 Melbourne Victory	6	4	1	1	14	7	7	13		
2 Canberra United	5	4	0	1	10	1	9	12		
3 Brisbane Roar	6	3	1	2	9	6	3	10		
4 Sydney FC	3	2	2	0	11	3	8	8		
5 Wanderers	5	2	1	2	8	7	1	7		
6 Adelaide United	6	2	1	3	5	6	-1	7		
7 Perth Glory	6	2	0	4	7	13	-6	6		
8 Newcastle Jets	6	0	0	6	3	24	-21	0		



Adelaide keeper Melissa Barbieri clings onto the ball as Caitlin Friend (Victory) and Alex Gummer go over the top. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Claire Polkinghorne has the smile of a Cheshire cat after scoring for Brisbane Roar against Sydney FC. Photo: KEITH EIGELAND

Round 6 Review

Melbourne Victory 1 (Lisa De Vanna 82')
Adelaide United 0
Saturday 21 December 2013
Kingston Heath, Melbourne
Referee: Katie Patterson

Melbourne Victory: Brianna Davey (Gk), Jessica Humble, Katie Hoyle, Stephanie Catley, Caitlin Friend, Jessica Fishlock, Lisa De Vanna, Jessica Samuelsson, Enza Barilla, Emma Checker, Gulcan Koca
Substitutes – Cassandra Dimovski (Gk), Cindy Lay, Beatrice Goad, Alexandra Natoli
Cautions – Nil

Adelaide United: Melissa Barbieri (Gk), AlexandRa Gummer, Jessie Wharepouri, Rachael Quigley, Lisa-Marie Woods, Daila-Tais Borg (Laura Stockdale 56'), Jayah Brown (Tegan Riding 50'), Jenna McCormick, Tiarn Powell, Snež Veljanovska, Kristy Moore
Substitutes – Kelly Bartrop (Gk), Daniela Di Bartolo
Cautions – Lisa-Marie Woods 53', Snež Veljanovska 85'

Perth Glory 0
Canberra United 2 (Ashleigh Sykes 51', Stephanie Ochs 92')
Saturday 21 December 2013
Percy Doyle Reserve, Perth
Referee: Casey Reibelt

Perth Glory: Chantel Jones (Gk), Sarah Carroll, Cecillie Sandvej, Shannon May (Amy Knights 88'), Ella Mastrantonio, Rosie Sutton, Elisa D'ovidio (C), Thia Eastman (Jessica Dillon 92'), Marianna Tabain, Shawn Billam (Emily Henderson 79'), Christina Julien
Substitutes – Kathleen Waycott (Gk)
Cautions – Cecillie Sandvej 55', Sarah Carroll, 80'

Canberra United: Lydia Williams (Gk), Catherine Brown, Kendall Fletcher, Ellie Brush, Grace Gill (Jennifer Bisset 57'), Michelle Heyman (Holly Houston 89'), Sally Rojahn, Nicole Sykes, Ashleigh Sykes (Meg McLaughlin 70'), Lori Lindsey, Stephanie Ochs
Substitutes – Trudy Burke (Gk)
Cautions – Ellie Brush 52', Jennifer Bisset 88'

Brisbane Roar 1 (Hayley Raso 55')
Sydney FC 1 (Renee Rollason 4')
Sunday 22 December 2013
Goodwin Park, Brisbane
Referee: Kirralee Andruschak

Brisbane Roar: Nadine Angerer (Gk), Amy Chapman (Joanne Burgess 11', Sunny Franco 65'), Clare Polkinghorne, Brooke Spence, Kim Carroll, Elise Kellond-Knight, Larissa Crummer (Emily Gielnik 70'), Katrina Gorry, Vedrana Popovic, Tameka Butt, Hayley Raso
Substitutes – Kate Stewart (Gk)
Cautions – None

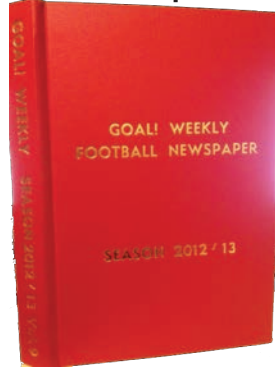
Sydney FC: Casey Dumont (Gk), Teresa Polias, Alesha Clifford, Nicola Bolger (Trudy Camilleri 82'), Caitlin Foord, Renee Rollason, Anna Green (Elyse Perry 46'), Jodie Taylor, Emma Kete, Leena Khamis (Chloe Logarzo 58'), Sam Kerr
Substitutes – Sham Khamis (Gk)
Cautions – Teresa Polias 17', Caitlin Foord 65', Sam Kerr 87', 91'
Red Card: Sam Kerr 91'

Western Sydney Wanderers 3 (Linda O'Neill 45', Catherine Cannuli 71', 76')
Newcastle Jets 0
Sunday 22 December 2013
Centretbet Stadium (Penrith), Sydney
Referee: Rachel Mitchenson

Western Sydney Wanderers: Dimi Poulos (Gk), Caitlin Cooper, Shawna Gordon, Camille Levin, Emily Van Egmond, Heather Garriock (Helen Petinos 58'), Jenna Kingsley (Jessica Seaman 85'), Catherine Cannuli, Teigen Allen, Alanna Kennedy, Linda O'Neill (Michelle Carney 81')
Substitutes – Mackenzie Arnold (Gk)
Cautions – Emily Van Egmond 60'

Newcastle Jets: Eliza Campbell (Gk), Hannah Brewster, Stacey Day (Siahn Bozanic 46'), Ashley Spina, Gema Simon, Tara Andrews, Rhali Dobson, Hannah Beard, Jasmin Courteney (Clare Wheeler 58'), Cassidy Davis (Adriana Jones 78'), Lauren Brown
Substitutes – Claire Coelho
Cautions – Hannah Beard 90'

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Australia's Favourite Football Fanzine

Words: Kevin Milstein (CEO Reagan Milstein Foundation)



Minister for Sport and Recreation, Hugh Delahunty, with Girls with Heart, at the Harmony Day curtain raiser game in February 2013.



Kids in Nepal with their new RMF gear that was handed out by Balls4Nepal.

Reagan Milstein Foundation

I am often asked “so what do you do?” My usual answer is “it’s complicated, but in short I run a football, or soccer, foundation named after my late son”. That’s when the real questions start coming. Reagan was the youngest of our five children and it was his dream to go to the World Cup. In 2010 I took him and my partner to Sth Africa, where he lived his dream and on the way back we stopped off in Malaysia for a bit of diving. In circumstances best described as “an accident” Reagan suffered an air embolism while in the water, passed out and was rushed to hospital. The next day he was medivaced to Singapore where he stayed in intensive care for nearly 3 weeks before being medivaced to Melbourne and then passed away 3 days later on 22 July 2010.

In the times that we sat by his bedside hoping and praying, as much as I didn’t want to, I had to contemplate life without Reagan. (Reagan was then 14 years old.) It was in one of those moments that I knew that I didn’t want his name to just disappear into thin air and that I wanted to keep his name and memory alive somehow.

So when he did pass away we were guided by the 2 things that he loved best: football and helping people. With the help of the FFV we created the Reagan Milstein Foundation with the aim of “achieving opportunity and equality through football”. RMF, as we fondly call it, was born on what would have been Reagan’s 15th birthday on 25 Nov 2010.

In the 3 short years of RMF we have been to dozens of places and helped hundreds of people that we never could have imagined of before.

During this unbelievable journey we have been assisted by many individuals, in the form of cash donations, volunteering their time, or their old football boots, as well as businesses, clubs, football associations and sometimes even governments.

We have been able to reach less fortunate football communities as close as Dandenong, Flemington, Mt Gambier SA, moving outward to the Northern Territory, Tiwi Islands and even going as far as Tonga, Samoa, Cambodia, Vietnam and South Africa. Those places are just to name a few.

I honestly couldn’t tell you how many children and

adults we have helped along our journey. From simply donating recycled boots, uniforms, books, or being able to help a talented footballer get to Spain, sponsor indigenous tournaments, and the list goes on....

RMF has also been able to work with both Heart and Victory in Melbourne to encourage and promote football in the community. But without a doubt the biggest endorsement of RMF came in July 2013. That’s when Liverpool FC came to town.

Without us knowing we were linked to LFC in a fundraiser which we were very honoured and delighted about, however the bombshell dropped just a week before the big game at the MCG. That’s when we got an email from LFC inviting us to be their charity partner in Australia.

To this day I don’t know how that came about but I believe that a few football people/entities had to tick some boxes to make it happen. To them I and RMF are humbly grateful and truly honoured to be associated with such a football giant as Liverpool FC.

Once the partnership was confirmed between RMF and LFC it threw up an interesting dilemma.

Up until that point we were basically a family run organisation, but with the higher profile of LFC we now needed to become more “professional”. That is the cross roads that we are at now.

The aim of RMF is to help any less fortunate child/adolescent in Australia to play football at the highest level that they can with the endorsement of their local FA. It’s a lofty goal that needs big backers behind it, but in the end it benefits football right across Australia.

So that’s where RMF stands right now, on the cusp of something huge and looking around for friends and believers in football.

Its been over 3 years now since I last saw my son smile but in that time I have seen countless smiles across the world that have Reagan behind everyone of them.

The RMF journey has been a rollercoaster one for Reagan’s family and me but we hope that you can join us by simple going to our website www.reaganmilstein-foundation.com or our Facebook page or maybe even by coming on board and sharing our dream.



Indigenous Youth Football Carnival (Oct 2013)



Emma Checker of Melbourne Victory Women’s team with RMF logo on her right sleeve.



Holmesglen TAFE Glen Waverley group in Cambodia giving out football gear from RMF



The Reagan Milstein U14 football team in Tonga in November 2013.

GOAL! WEEKLY

FRIDAY 27TH DECEMBER 2013 GOAL! WEEKLY

WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONS 2013



BAYERN MÜNCHEN

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Italian Serie A



Luca Cetta

Inter's Derby delight

Inter continued their recent Derby della Madonnina dominance thanks to a late winner, while there was also a battle in the stands.

It's hard to think of a time in recent memory when both Milan clubs were in such transition. Milan have endured a terrible start to the term to sit mid-table, while Inter – in Champions League contention – are fifth but experiencing a ‘Year Zero’ in Walter Mazzarri’s first campaign.

Mario Balotelli aside, big names do not grace the Stadio Giuseppe Meazza as they once did. Where the Madonnina was once a cavalcade of stars, when watching the current edition you could be forgiven for thinking it’s Atalanta versus Foggia – no disrespect to those two clubs.

Milan’s issues in 2013-14 have been well documented. After just four wins in 16 matches pressure remains heaped on Massimiliano Allegri. But he continues to wave off questions about his future. “The first thing they teach you on your management training course is that you are alone and with the suitcase



Palacio’s winner settled the Milan Derby 1-0 in Inter’s favour

in your hand. Talking about my future on the eve of a derby is pointless and I don’t want to discuss it. The squad must not be distracted by this talk. Our duty is to climb up the table, get through the next round of the Champions League and reach the Coppa Italia Final.”

Meanwhile, the Nerazzurri were aiming to bounce back from defeat at Napoli, one Mazzarri called unjust. With new owner Erick Thohir back in town, it was a chance for the President and Coach to talk. “My meeting with President Thohir was very positive, as he seemed relaxed. Everyone knows when we don’t win I cannot let it go, but he tried to help us all relax and said he appreciated the football against Napoli. He confirmed we are on the right track, will try to go as far as possible and build for the future.”

Inter’s Naples trip saw the Nerazzurri hit with a closure of a section of the Curva Nord for the Derby

– where the hardcore fans sit. The controversial territorial discrimination chants were the cause and so some fans would not be present for their biggest game of the season. However, the club won an appeal to have the ban suspended pending further evidence. Inter argued that actions of a few at an away game should not cost home fans, and besides not all sit in one section of the San Siro, so which area should be closed?

The usually colourful atmosphere of the Milan Derby was absent. While Inter’s ultras had little time to prepare because of the ban, they also sided with their Milan counterparts, whose choreography was banned from being displayed only on Sunday morning.

Allegri sprung a surprise by giving a first Rossoneri start to young playmaker Riccardo Saponara. Inter had not won in five and Milan had not lost in the same number,



ITALY

Serie A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Juventus	17	15	1	1	39	11	+28	46	WWWWW
2 Roma	17	12	5	0	35	7	+28	41	WDWDD
3 Napoli	17	11	3	3	36	20	+16	36	DWDWL
4 Fiorentina	17	10	3	4	33	20	+13	33	WWLWL
5 Internazionale	17	8	7	2	37	21	+16	31	WLDDD
6 Hellas Verona	17	9	2	6	31	26	+5	29	WDWLL
7 Torino	17	6	7	4	30	24	+6	25	WWWDW
8 Parma	17	4	8	5	23	25	-2	20	DDDDW
9 Genoa	17	5	5	7	17	20	-3	20	LDLDD
10 Lazio	17	5	5	7	22	26	-4	20	LWLDD
11 Udinese	17	6	2	9	17	22	-5	20	WLDLW
12 Cagliari	17	4	8	5	18	24	-6	20	DDWDD
13 Milan	17	4	7	6	25	26	-1	19	LDWDW
14 Sampdoria	17	4	6	7	19	25	-6	18	DWWDW
15 Atalanta	17	5	3	9	18	25	-7	18	LDLDL
16 Chievo	17	4	3	10	13	23	-10	15	LLWWW
17 Bologna	17	3	6	8	17	31	-14	15	WLDDD
18 Sassuolo	17	3	5	9	17	36	-19	14	LLLDW
19 Livorno	17	3	4	10	16	29	-13	13	LDLLL
20 Catania	17	2	4	11	10	32	-22	10	LDLLL

but Mazzarri’s men still enjoyed a nine-point lead over their rivals. Felipe Scolari was in the stands to keep an eye on Brazilian players present ahead of the World Cup, including Kaka – who has enjoyed a positive return to Milan.

Both goalkeepers had little to worry about in a tetchy contest, although on the half-hour Samir Handanovic spilled a corner and Andrea Poli could only fire over the top when surrounded by Inter defenders. Rodrigo Palacio turned brilliantly to lose Daniele Bonera and force a save from Christian Abbiati in the 80th minute and as the move continued the Argentine prodded a low attempt into the goalkeeper’s grateful grasp.

Yet it was Palacio who decided the Derby with only four minutes remaining. Fredy Guarin’s first-time cross was flicked in wonderfully by the No 8. Inter could celebrate their fourth Derby win in five matches.

Sulley Muntari was sent off in stoppage time as he shouldered Zdracko Kuzmanovic, who was time-wasting. Pushing and shoving ensued and the Ghanaian was given his marching orders.

“Milan kept us under ferocious pressure, so we were afraid and psychologically blocked,” said Mazzarri. “We needed something to shake us up. We did that in the locker room at half time and then played the way I wanted us to.” Allegri noted his side ran out of legs. “The team was a little tired at the end, but unfortunately I had few options... I think it was a strong performance for an hour, then we should’ve defended better and Rodrigo Palacio scored a great goal.” Thohir thoroughly enjoyed his first Milan Derby, and first Inter win under his reign. “I never dreamed of winning two Derbies back-to-back,” he said, after also watching the youth side defeat their Rosson-

eri equivalent. “Of course the real heroes are the Coach, the players and the supporters, not me. I am just one small part of it.”

The win gives the blue half of the city bragging rights and keeps Inter firmly within Champions League contention, while only further serving to cast doubt over the future of Allegri. His will be a long Christmas break.

Elsewhere, Juventus and Roma both enjoyed crushing victories. Gianluigi Buffon lost his 745-minute clean sheet streak as Maxi Moralez cancelled out Carlos Tevez’ opener, but Juve recovered to beat Atalanta 4-1 thanks to three second half strikes. Roma go into the winter break still five points adrift following to a 4-0 drubbing of bottom club Catania. Fiorentina closed in on Napoli following a scrappy single-goal win over Sassuolo, with the Partneopei dropping points away at Cagliari.

Spanish La Liga



Pepe Lopez

Pedro Bails Barca Out Of Humiliation

Trailing to lowly Getafe by 2 goals to nil after just 14 minutes, Barcelona found unlikely inspiration from Spanish striker Pedro, who netted 3 times to claim a hat-trick in the space of just 8 minutes, putting Barca 2-3 up going into halftime. With Leo Messi out injured and Neymar out suspended, this was always going to be a tricky away fixture for the Catalan champions of Spain. After the halftime break, Cesc Fabregas scored twice, to make the final score 2-5, completing a remarkable 2-5 turnaround. The result also pushed Barca back to the top of the La Liga standings by goal difference over Atletico Madrid who had jumped out to



Pedro scores a hat-trick to restore order for Barcelona in the 2-5 turnaround against Getafe.

a 3 point lead after their 3-2 win against Levante.

After the match, Barcelona Coach Tata Martino had this to say about hat-trick hero Pedro; “Pedro played a fantastic game. But then, he always scores. Pedro’s secret is that he never gives up. That’s why every coach ends up loving him. Pique should have scored to put us in front, and then we had 10, 20 extremely poor minutes that could have cost us. Still, we kept our style and had 70 more good minutes. Football-wise, the team gets better each game. But in terms of things we

should improve, for sure, keeping clean sheets and defending set-pieces better.”

With Spanish league leaders Barcelona and Atletico Madrid set for a showdown on the 11th of January, players from both teams are keeping an eye on their rivals, Pedro had this to say after the Getafe match;

“Atletico have had a sensational return, they’re a strong title candidate. Real Madrid are a strong team - they always are. Between now and the last day of the season we will play much better. It was

SPAIN

La Liga



Last5games

Most recent first

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	
1 Barcelona	17	15	1	1	49	12	+37	46	WWLWW
2 Atlético Madrid	17	15	1	1	46	11	+35	46	WWWWW
3 Real Madrid	17	13	2	2	49	21	+28	41	WDWWW
4 Athletic Club	17	10	3	4	26	21	+5	33	WDWWW
5 Real Sociedad	17	8	5	4	33	23	+10	29	WWWDL
6 Villarreal	17	8	4	5	27	18	+9	28	LLDWD
7 Sevilla	17	7	5	5	32	29	+3	26	WDWWW
8 Getafe	17	7	2	8	20	27	-7	23	LLWLD
9 Espanyol	17	6	4	7	22	23	-1	22	WDLWL
10 Málaga	17	5	5	7	19	22	-3	20	WWDLL
11 Valencia	17	6	2	9	23	29	-6	20	LLWLD
12 Granada	17	6	2	9	15	22	-7	20	LWLWL
13 Levante	17	5	5	7	17	25	-8	20	LWLLL
14 Elche	17	4	5	8	16	23	-7	17	LLLWD
15 Celta de Vigo	17	4	4	9	21	27	-6	16	DWLWL
16 Almería	17	4	4	9	17	32	-15	16	WDLLW
17 Real Valladolid	17	3	6	8	21	29	-8	15	LWLLD
18 Osasuna	17	4	3	10	14	28	-14	15	DDLWL
19 Rayo Vallecano	17	4	1	12	16	40	-24	13	LLDLW
20 Real Betis	17	2	4	11	15	36	-21	10	LDLLL

a momentous match we couldn’t lose. I feel good physically. I have the luck of scoring goals, I’m on a roll. It’s important to bring something to the team. The team’s reaction was great.”

Atletico Madrid staged a comeback of their own, and had inform and leading La Liga striker Diego Costa to thank in their 3-2 win over Levante. Costa scored twice, his first of the night was a sensational left footed volley that has excited agents the continent over, who were already keeping tabs on a player who was relatively unknown outside of Spain a year ago, now evaluated at 40

million Euro hot-property to Europe’s richest clubs, a week before the January transfer window.

Atleti Coach Diego Simeone is obviously delighted with the performance of his team, but will no doubt be fearful that his new star players will be contract clause buy-out targets during the entire month of January.

Speaking after the match against Levante, Simeone had this to say of Diego Costa and his team; “I have to say Diego Costa had a great game. If the deadline for the Ballon d’Or had been extended, he would be there fighting for it. He showed great responsibility

and I hope he gets a bit closer to winning the Ballon d’Or next year. The fans of Atleti should be proud of the passion the players are showing; they are doing things that are unforgettable. Being coach has been enormously exciting. We have got this club moving towards one single goal and we’re not going to compromise on our philosophy of treating every game like it’s the last of our lives. We are aware of our limitations and the difficulties we face so we have to keep rowing and rowing every day in the same direction to reach our destination.”

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CROATIA 1.HNL



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Dinamo Zagreb	19	13	4	2	35	13	+22	43	W W D W W
2 Hajduk Split	20	10	8	2	35	18	+17	38	D D D D W
3 Rijeka	20	10	8	2	37	18	+19	38	W D D W D
4 Lokomotiva	20	10	3	7	31	27	+4	33	L D W L W
5 Split	20	8	7	5	21	17	+4	31	L D W D D
6 Istra 1961	19	7	5	7	27	26	+1	26	W D W L D
7 Slaven Koprivnica	20	3	9	8	23	27	-4	18	D D D D L
8 Zadar	20	4	5	11	15	33	-18	17	L D L D L
9 Osijek	20	2	6	12	14	41	-27	12	D L D D D
10 Hrvatski Drago...	20	1	7	12	15	33	-18	10	D L L D D

GERMANY Bundesliga



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Bayern München	16	14	2	0	42	8	+34	44	W W W W W
2 Bayer Leverkusen	17	12	1	4	32	16	+16	37	L L W W W
3 Borussia M'gla...	17	10	3	4	35	19	+16	33	D D W W W
4 Borussia Dortmund	17	10	2	5	38	20	+18	32	L D L W L
5 Wolfsburg	17	9	3	5	28	19	+9	30	D W W D D
6 Hertha BSC	17	8	4	5	27	20	+7	28	W W W D L
7 Schalke 04	17	8	4	5	32	28	+4	28	D W L W D
8 Augsburg	17	7	3	7	21	25	-4	24	D W W D W
9 Mainz 05	17	7	3	7	25	31	-6	24	W D D L W
10 Stuttgart	16	5	4	7	29	31	-2	19	L W L L W
11 Werder Bremen	17	5	4	8	22	37	-15	19	W L L D L
12 Hoffenheim	17	4	6	7	36	38	-2	18	L D W D L
13 Hannover 96	17	5	3	9	23	31	-8	18	L D L W L
14 Hamburger SV	17	4	4	9	33	38	-5	16	L L L D W
15 Eintracht Fran...	17	3	6	8	20	29	-9	15	D W L L D
16 Freiburg	17	3	5	9	16	31	-15	14	W L L L W
17 Nürnberg	17	0	11	6	17	33	-16	11	D D D L D
18 Eintracht Brau...	17	3	2	12	10	32	-22	11	W L L L L

THE CHAMPIONSHIP



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Burnley	21	12	7	2	33	15	+18	43	W D W D L
2 Queens Park Ra...	21	12	6	3	24	11	+13	42	L W D W L
3 Leicester City	21	13	3	5	33	22	+11	42	D W L L W
4 Derby County	21	12	4	5	45	27	+18	40	W W W W W
5 Leeds United	21	10	4	7	32	23	+9	34	D W D W L
6 Reading	21	9	7	5	30	24	+6	34	L W L W L
7 Nottingham Forest	21	8	9	4	29	22	+7	33	D W D D L
8 Brighton & Hov...	21	8	8	5	25	18	+7	32	D W W L D
9 Ipswich Town	21	8	7	6	31	25	+6	31	D D W W W
10 Blackpool	21	8	7	6	24	25	-1	31	L L L L W
11 Blackburn Rovers	21	8	6	7	26	24	+2	30	W W D L W
12 Wigan Athletic	20	8	4	8	24	23	+1	28	W W L L L
13 Huddersfield Town	21	7	6	8	25	24	+1	27	D L L W W
14 Watford	21	6	8	7	31	29	+2	26	D L D D L
15 AFC Bournemouth	21	7	4	10	26	39	-13	25	W L W L D
16 Birmingham City	21	6	6	9	26	26	+0	24	D W D D W
17 Middlesbrough	21	5	8	8	32	31	+1	23	D W D L W
18 Bolton Wanderers	21	5	8	8	23	27	-4	23	D L W L L
19 Millwall	21	5	6	10	25	42	-17	21	L L W D L
20 Doncaster Rovers	21	5	5	11	18	37	-19	20	L L L D W
21 Charlton Athletic	21	4	7	10	17	26	-9	19	D L D L L
22 Sheffield Wedn...	20	3	8	9	22	31	-9	19	L W L W L
23 Yeovil Town	21	4	5	12	17	28	-11	17	L D D W W
24 Barnsley	21	3	7	11	19	38	-19	16	D D L W L

Greece Super League



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Olympiakos Piraeus	17	16	1	0	53	6	+47	49	W W W W W
2 PAOK	17	12	3	2	34	15	+19	39	W D W D W
3 Atromitos	17	9	3	5	28	14	+14	32	W D W W D
4 Panathinaikos	17	9	3	5	28	16	+12	30	W W L W D
5 Asteras Tripolis	17	6	8	3	23	17	+6	26	D D W L W
6 Xanthi	17	7	3	7	23	25	-2	24	L W L W D
7 PAS Giannina	17	7	2	8	20	23	-3	23	W L W L L
8 OFI	17	5	6	6	16	21	-5	21	W L W L W
9 Panthrakikos	17	5	6	6	22	27	-5	21	L W L W D
10 Panaitolikos	17	5	6	6	18	16	+2	21	L W L D L
11 Ergotelis	17	4	8	5	19	21	-2	20	D D L D L
12 Panionios	17	5	5	7	16	20	-4	20	L W L D D
13 Kalloni	17	6	1	10	17	31	-14	19	D L L L L
14 Plataniás	17	4	6	7	16	22	-6	18	W L W L D
15 Levadiakos	17	5	2	10	17	33	-16	17	L L L W L
16 Apollon Smirnis	17	3	5	9	17	31	-14	14	L D W D D
17 Veria	17	3	5	9	14	28	-14	14	L D L W W
18 Aris	17	2	5	10	14	29	-15	11	D L L D D

SCOTLAND SPL



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Celtic	16	13	3	0	38	12	+26	42	W W W W W
2 Dundee United	17	9	5	3	34	12	+22	32	W W W W W
3 Aberdeen	17	10	2	5	28	17	+11	32	W W W L L
4 Inverness CT	16	10	2	4	26	15	+11	32	L W D W W
5 Motherwell	17	10	1	6	21	24	-3	31	W W L W L
6 St. Johnstone	16	6	4	6	22	17	+5	22	D L L W W
7 Hibernian	17	4	6	7	10	16	-6	18	D L D D L
8 St. Mirren	16	4	4	8	14	26	-12	16	L D D D W
9 Kilmarnock	17	4	3	10	19	29	-10	15	W L W L L
10 Partick Thistle	16	3	5	8	14	27	-13	14	L D L L L
11 Ross County	16	3	2	11	17	32	-15	11	L L D L L
12 Heart of Midlo...	17	3	3	11	13	29	-16	-3	L L L D W

HOLLAND Eredivisie



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Ajax	18	11	4	3	41	17	+24	37	W W W W W
2 Vitesse	18	11	4	3	42	24	+18	37	D W W W W
3 Twente	18	9	7	2	41	18	+23	34	D W W W W
4 Feyenoord	18	10	3	5	36	24	+12	33	W W W W L
5 Heerenveen	18	8	5	5	42	32	+10	29	W W L D W
6 Groningen	18	7	6	5	36	32	+4	27	W L D D D
7 PSV	18	7	5	6	35	25	+10	26	W W L L D
8 AZ	18	7	3	8	29	33	-4	24	L L L L D
9 Utrecht	18	7	3	8	26	34	-8	24	L L W W W
10 Go Ahead Eagles	18	6	5	7	29	41	-12	23	W L W D L
11 PEC Zwolle	18	5	7	6	25	24	+1	22	L L L D D
12 NAC Breda	18	6	4	8	29	32	-3	22	W L L D L
13 Heracles	18	6	4	8	25	31	-6	22	D W W D L
14 RKC Waalwijk	18	4	6	8	25	34	-9	18	D W D D W
15 Roda JC	18	4	6	8	30	41	-11	18	L L L L D
16 ADO Den Haag	18	5	2	11	21	40	-19	17	L W D D L
17 Cambuur	18	4	4	10	16	26	-10	16	L L D L W
18 NEC	18	3	6	9	29	49	-20	15	L W L W L

LEAGUE ONE



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Leyton Orient	21	13	5	3	45	21	+24	44	L D D D W
2 Wolverhampton ...	21	13	5	3	35	16	+19	44	D L L W D
3 Brentford	21	13	4	4	33	19	+14	43	W W W W D
4 Peterborough U...	21	12	3	6	32	21	+11	39	W D W L L
5 Preston North End	21	10	8	3	30	22	+8	38	L D W W D
6 Rotherham United	21	9	8	4	36	27	+9	35	D W W W D
7 Swindon Town	21	10	3	8	37	27	+10	33	L W D L L
8 Walsall	21	9	6	6	23	18	+5	33	W W L D D
9 Bradford City	21	7	9	5	34	24	+10	30	L D D W W
10 Port Vale	21	9	3	9	30	33	-3	30	L D W L W
11 Milton Keynes Dons	20	8	4	8	33	29	+4	28	W L L L L
12 Crawley Town	21	6	8	7	24	28	-4	26	W D L D D
13 Coventry City	21	10	5	6	44	38	+6	25	L D W L L
14 Gillingham	22	7	4	11	29	38	-9	25	W D L L W
15 Colchester United	21	5	9	7	23	30	-7	24	W L L W D
16 Carlisle United	21	6	6	9	23	35	-12	24	L W L W D
17 Shrewsbury Town	21	5	8	8	22	24	-2	23	D L W L W
18 Oldham Athletic	20	6	4	10	23	28	-5	22	L L D W W
19 Sheffield United	21	5	6	10	18	27	-9	21	D W D D W
20 Tranmere Rovers	21	5	5	11	25	40	-15	20	L L W L W
21 Stevenage	21	5	4	12	21	34	-13	19	D D L L W
22 Notts County	22	5	3	14	26	35	-9	18	D W W L D
23 Crewe Alexandra	21	4	6	11	18	43	-25	18	D D W L L
24 Bristol City	21	2	10	9	28	35	-7	16	D L L D L

France Ligue 1



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 PSG	19	13	5	1	44	13	+31	44	DWWLW
2 Monaco	19	12	5	2	31	13	+18	41	LWWWW
3 Lille	19	12	4	3	22	8	+14	40	DWLWW
4 Bordeaux	19	8	7	4	27	21	+6	31	DWWWWW
5 Saint-Etienne	18	9	3	6	27	20	+7	30	WLWWW
6 Olympique Mars...	19	8	5	6	27	20	+7	29	DDLWL
7 Nantes	19	9	2	8	23	17	+6	29	LLWWL
8 Reims	19	7	8	4	23	21	+2	29	WDWWL
9 Lorient	19	8	3	8	26	26	+0	27	DWWWWW
10 Olympique Lyonnai...	16	7	6	28	27	+1	25	DDWDL	
11 Toulouse	19	6	7	6	20	24	-4	25	DWDDW
12 Guingamp	19	6	6	7	19	19	+0	24	DLDLW
13 Bastia	19	6	6	7	21	26	-5	24	DLLDW
14 Nice	19	7	2	10	18	25	-7	23	WWLLL
15 Rennes	19	5	6	8	22	24	-2	21	LLWLW
16 Evian TG	18	5	5	8	19	31	-12	20	LDWWL
17 Montpellier	19	2	11	6	18	24	-6	17	DLLDL
18 Valenciennes	19	3	5	11	17	28	-11	14	WLDDL
19 Sochaux	19	2	5	12	15	39	-24	11	LLLLL
20 Ajaccio	19	1	6	12	13	34	-21	9	LLDLL

Youth Diploma

We are delighted to announce the Coerver® Coaching Diploma in Youth Development schedule for 2014, in association with our global partner adidas® and our presenting partner FourFourTwo Performance.

The Coerver® Coaching Youth Diploma has been developed from 30 years of knowledge and work with the leading federations, clubs, managers and star names in International Football.

FourFourTwo
PERFORMANCE

adidas®



CHARLIE COOKE
Co Founder & Director Coerver® Coaching North America

Charlie played for Aberdeen and Dundee in the Scottish First Division before joining Chelsea in the English First Division in 1966 where he played for the next 11 years.

He made 380 league and Cup appearances for the Blues and played in four Cup Finals, winning the English F.A. Cup in 1970 against Leeds and the European Cup Winners Cup in 1971 against Real Madrid.

He also played 16 times for the Scottish National Team and a World Select Team in 1979.

He shares the Chelsea club record of three Player of The Year awards with Gianfranco Zola and in 2005 Chelsea's Centenary celebration year he was selected for the Chelsea All Time XI.

Along with co creator Alfred Galustian Coerver® Coaching International Director Charlie has been a Director of Coerver® Coaching in the Americas since its creation in 1983. He lives in Cincinnati Ohio USA.

COERVER® COACHING YOUTH DIPLOMA

Date(s): 28/01/2014 - 29/01/2014

Time: 5:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Location: [Parade College Bundoora](#)

coerver®
COACHING

Youth Diploma Course Overview

The purpose of the FourFourTwo Performance Coerver® Coaching Diploma in Youth Development is to give attendees, whether you are a professional academy coach, junior coach, teacher or parent a greater understanding of how to plan & deliver more effective coaching sessions.

This will be made possible by learning to use the New Coerver® Coaching Session Planner which will provide a quick & easy solution for all attendees who would like to construct weekly, monthly or even season long programmes using proven, high quality drills & games from Coerver® Coaching, "The World's Number 1 Soccer Skills Teaching Method".

Coaches - you get

- Drills and games developed over our 27 year history, that you can use to build sessions for many seasons using the NEW Coerver® Coaching Session Planner
- The secrets Coerver® Coaching have used over the last 27 years to establish themselves as "The World's Number One Soccer Skills Teaching Method"
- Essential tips on how to improve your coaching & make your sessions more effective

The FourFourTwo Performance Coerver® Coaching Diploma in Youth Development is a 2-day course that has been broken down into 4 modules that will be presented through lecture presentations & practical demonstrations:

- Module 1 - The Coerver® Approach To Coaching
- Module 2 - The Coerver® Curriculum
- Module 3 - Coerver® Session Planning for your Season
- Module 4 - Coerver® Tips To Be A Better Coach

YOUTH DIPLOMA COURSE PACKAGE

- 8-10 hours of programmed COERVER® Coaching conducted by COERVER® Coaching Co- Founder and Chelsea FC Legend - Charlie Cooke
- Course notes including drills
- A 5 set DVD package of the latest Coerver Session Planner Series value \$110.00
- COERVER® Coaching Shirt value \$40.00
- Coerver® Coaching Youth Diploma Certificate of Attendance

Melbourne North and East

For further info or to register please visit:
www.coerver.com.au/wp/melbne
or contact: 0408 601 770

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